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NEARBY

70% children aged 6 to 14 exposed to SARS-CoV-2

BENGALURU

Preliminary findings of the State's third sero-survey involving 5,072 unvaccinated children aged six to 14 found that 70% of the children have been exposed to the virus so far. The survey found that over 3,550 of the surveyed children had developed IgG antibodies that remain in the blood after an infection has passed. The survey began on June 6. It covered children in both urban and rural areas in all districts, including the BBMP.

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 6

OPPORTUNITIES ▸ PAGE 3

Pelosi lands in Taiwan, China slams U.S.

Beijing condemns 'political provocation', vows 'targeted military' countermeasures

ANANTH KRISHNAN
BEIJING

U.S. House Speaker and veteran Democratic politician Nancy Pelosi arrived in Taipei on Tuesday evening, marking the most high-level political visit from the U.S. to Taiwan in 25 years.

China condemned the visit as "a major political provocation", and said it would launch "targeted military operations" as countermeasures, even as Beijing on Tuesday scrambled Su-35 fighters across the median of the Taiwan Strait in a show of force, placed restrictions on several Taiwanese exporters, and announced live-fire drills to be held in six regions near the island of Taiwan from Thursday to Sunday.

China's Defence Ministry said it is "on high alert" while the PLA Eastern Theatre Command announced it will hold joint sea and air exercises in the sea and airspaces of northern, southwestern and southeastern Taiwan and also carry out missile tests.

China's Foreign Ministry, in a statement released shortly after Ms. Pelosi's U.S. Air Force-operated Boeing C-40C plane touched down in Taipei, said "her visit to and activities in Taiwan, in whatever form and for whatever reason, is a major political provocation to upgrade U.S. official exchanges with Taiwan".

Ms. Pelosi, on arrival, said her "delegation's visit to Taiwan honours America's unwavering commitment to supporting Taiwan's vibrant democracy". "Our discussions with [the] Taiwan leadership reaffirm our support for our partner & promote our shared interests, including advancing a free and open Indo-Pacific region," Ms. Pelosi said.

On a mission: U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, centre, arriving in Taipei, Taiwan, on Tuesday. • AP

Underlining the importance on the visit placed by Taiwan, which has seen the number of countries that maintain formal relations dwindle to only around a dozen, Foreign Minister Joseph Wu welcomed Ms. Pelosi at the airport. Talks with President Tsai Ing-wen are set for Wednesday.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying earlier accused the U.S. of "hollowing out" its commitment to a "One China Policy". "The U.S. and Taiwan have made provocations together first, whereas China has been compelled to act in self-defence," she said. "Any countermeasure to be taken by China would be a justified and necessary response to the U.S. oblivion to China's repeated démarches and the U.S.'s unscrupulous behaviour".

Chinese analysts expected a series of measures to be announced in coming days and weeks, from military drills to economic actions, as well as a period of increasingly fraught relations between the world's two biggest powers.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Al-Qaeda chief killed in U.S. strike in Kabul

He is believed to be a 9/11 mastermind

Who was al-Zawahiri?

A look at Ayman al-Zawahiri, the leader of al-Qaeda, who was killed in a U.S. drone strike in Kabul

- Zawahiri was born on June 19, 1951, in a Cairo suburb. He was inspired by the radical writings of Egyptian Islamist, Sayed Qutb, who believed in replacing the "infidel" Arab regimes with Islamic rule
- Zawahiri became a surgeon in the 1970s. He also became active in militant circles
- As the right-hand man to Osama bin Laden, he helped coordinate the 9/11 attacks in the U.S. that killed nearly 3,000 people
- After Bin Laden's death, he became the leader of al-Qaeda

SOURCE: AP, REUTERS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden announced on Monday that the U.S. had killed al-Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri, one of the world's most wanted terrorists and suspected mastermind of the September 11, 2001 attacks.

In a televised address, Mr. Biden said the drone strike in Kabul, Afghanistan, had been carried out on Saturday.

"I gave the final approval to go get him," he said, adding that there had been no civilian casualties. "Justice has been delivered and this terrorist leader is no more."

A senior administration official said Zawahiri had been killed on the balcony of a house in Kabul in a drone strike, and that there had been no U.S. boots on the ground in Afghanistan.

The official said that Zawahiri's presence in the Afghan capital was a "clear violation" of a deal the Taliban had signed with the U.S. in Doha in 2020 that paved the way for the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan.

It was the first known over-the-horizon strike by the U.S. on an al-Qaeda target in Afghanistan since American forces withdrew from the country on August 31, 2021.

Zawahiri, an Egyptian surgeon who grew up in a comfortable Cairo household before turning to violent radicalism, had been on the run for 20 years since the 9/11 attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people in the U.S.

He took over al-Qaeda after Osama bin Laden was killed by U.S. special forces in Pakistan in 2011, and had a $25 million U.S. bounty on his head.

Over the weekend, the Afghan Interior Ministry denied reports circulating on social media of a drone strike in Kabul, saying a rocket struck "an empty house" in the capital, causing no casualties.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10
RELATED REPORTS ▸ PAGES 10, 13

Rupee not collapsing, says FM

Currency finding its natural course, Sitharaman tells RS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

There is no collapse in the rupee's value and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is only intervening in the forex markets to rein in volatility, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman assured Parliament on Tuesday.

The Minister also emphasised that India, unlike many other countries, was not fixated on pegging the currency at a particular level, and said the government was working with the central bank to bolster foreign currency inflows.

"Indian rupee's fluctuations are more versus the U.S. dollar and even there, its performance is much better than its own peers," she said, during Question Hour in the Rajya Sabha.

"We have withstood the impact of the U.S. Fed's decisions much better than any other peer currencies, and the rupee is appreciating in value compared to other currencies. Let us understand the context and I assure you there is no collapse," Ms. Sitharaman asserted.

While India's foreign exchange reserves had declined to $571.5 billion in July, from about $600 billion recently, the Minister pointed out this was 'not a small amount', adding that the country was still 'comfortably placed'.

The rupee, she noted, 'is actually finding its natural course' and the RBI (is continuously monitoring it and intervening only) if there was volatility. "The RBI's intention is not so much to fix the value of the rupee," she noted.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Fazil murder case: Mangaluru police arrest six persons

The accused met on July 26 and made a list of six persons to be killed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANGALURU

The Mangaluru City police on Tuesday, August 2, arrested six persons allegedly involved in the murder of 22-year-old Mohammed Fazil in Surathkal on July 28.

Police Commissioner N. Shashi Kumar gave names of the arrested persons as Suhan Shetty (29), Mohan alias Mohan Singh (26), Giridhar (23), Abhishek (21), Shrinivas (23) and Deekshit (21).

Mr. Kumar told reporters that Suhan Shetty and a few other arrested persons met on July 26 (the day BJP Yuva Morcha activist Praveen Nettaru was murdered) and made a list of about six persons from a community who had to be killed. On July 27, Shetty met Giridhar and Mohan at a hotel in Surathkal.

Mohan roped in his friends Abhishek, Deekshit and Shrinivas into this task. Mohan then took Giridhar with him to bring the car from his friend, Ajith Crasta – who was arrested on July 31 – by offering the latter ₹15,000 for hiring the car for three days.

Mr. Kumar said the accused zeroed in on Fazil, a temporary cleaner for HPCL Bullet tanker, who has been socially active in the area. They did not proceed with the task on July 27 as three of the accused persons did not turn up.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 5

Rain fury claims eight lives in State

Widespread rains expected till Aug. 6

KARNATAKA BUREAU
BENGALURU/MANGALURU/HUBBALLI

Incessant rains have claimed the lives of eight people since Monday across Karnataka in Coastal and North Karnataka districts. A total of 491 persons have been evacuated from their residences so far across the State. Widespread moderate to heavy rainfall is likely over the State till August 6.

Bengaluru saw incessant rains on Monday and Tuesday, leading to flooding of roads and inundation of some low-lying areas. Tuesday night's rain resulted in traffic gridlocks in the CBD and on arterial roads. According to the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC), Bengaluru received 26.23 mm of rainfall between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. and the India Meteorological Department has issued an alert that city might receive heavy rainfall on Wednesday too.

The flooded Sai Layout in Hennur following heavy rains, in Bengaluru on Tuesday. • SUDHAKARA JAIN

Four of family buried alive

Tragic struck a family in Uttara Kannada district on Tuesday when four persons were buried alive as a portion of a hillock collapsed on a house downhill at Muttalli village in Bhatkal taluk.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 5

State funeral for sniffer dog Rana

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Sniffer dog Rana who was the scourge of anti-social elements and helped crack many poaching and hunting cases, including a few in other States, died of natural causes at Bandipur on Tuesday and was accorded a State funeral by the Forest Department.

A German Shepherd, he was born on December 12, 2013 and belonged to the 28th battalion to pass out of the Dog Training Centre of the Special Armed Forces in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

He trained from October 13, 2014 to June 23, 2015 and was inducted and deployed at Bandipur in June 2015. As the first member of the dog squad, Rana had helped sniff out various crimes, including poaching and hunting.

On March 9, 2016, Rana helped provide vital clues to the Forest Department squad to crack a timber smuggling case in N. Begur. He followed it up by zeroing in on miscreants who had poisoned two leopards in the Omkar range of Bandipur Tiger Reserve in July the same year.

He was also instrumental in busting a sandalwood bursting racket at Srirangapatna in Mandya district. As the fame of Rana's expertise in sniffing out various forest-related crimes spread far and wide, he came to be in demand in other parts of the State as well and would be deputed to secure a breakthrough in cracking various offences and forest crimes.

Forest Department officials lay wreath and pay their last respects to sniffer dog Rana that died in Bandipur on Tuesday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

An astute canine cop

Rana, with his impeccable training and inherent sense of smell, would detect the hideout of leopards and tigers evading capture or tranquilization during combing operations in conflict situation. This includes the episode where he offered assistance in tranquilization and capture of a tiger declared as a man-eater who was on the prowl in Mudumalai in the neighbouring Tamil Nadu.

Ramesh Kumar, Director, Bandipur Tiger Reserve, said Rana, in his 7 years of service with the forest department, had helped crack more than 45 forest crimes apart from helping capture and tranquilize 8 tigers.

Rana's death was received with a sense of grief and sadness by his handler and other forest department staff though he had retired some time ago. As Rana lay draped in the National Flag, senior officials including Mr. Ramesh Kumar placed wreaths on his body and gave him a salute before cremating him.

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NEWS IN NUMBERS

Paramilitary jobs

84,659 The number of posts lying vacant in six paramilitary forces, including CRPF and BSF, while 1.12 lakh posts were filled up in these forces in the last three years, according to Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai. He said that as per the instructions of the Department of Personnel and Training, 10% of the vacancies in paramilitary forces are reserved for ex-servicemen up to the level of assistant commandant to be filled by direct recruitment. PTI

Environmental crimes

1,737 The number of criminal cases that were registered, while 39 people were convicted across India for violating environmental laws in the last three years, according to Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav. He explained that as per the available information, the criminal cases were registered under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981; and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. PTI

Bank loan write-offs

9.91 In ₹ lakh crore, the worth of loans written off by banks in the last five financial years. During 2021-22, the write-off amount came down to ₹1.57 lakh crore compared to ₹2.02 lakh crore the previous year, according to the Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat. K. Karad. The highest write-offs in the last five years were recorded in 2018-19, which stood at ₹2.36 lakh crore. He also added that as per data, the number of wilful defaulters in the last four years stood at 10,306. PTI

Illegal foreign residents

117 The number of Chinese nationals deported for violating visa conditions and other illegal acts. 81 others from China were given 'Leave India' notices between 2019 and 2021. Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said that 726 Chinese nationals were placed on the 'adverse list' for violating visa conditions and other illegal acts. Action is taken against foreigners whose overstay is found to be intentional or unjustifiable as per the Foreigners Act 1946, including the issuance of 'Leave India' notices. PTI

Whatsapp bans

22 In lakh, the number of Indian accounts banned by WhatsApp in June on the basis of complaints received via its grievance redressal channel and through its own mechanism to detect violations, according to the messaging platform. This is higher than the 19 lakh accounts banned by the platform in May, 16 lakh accounts in April, and 18.05 lakh accounts in March. The new IT rules mandate large digital platforms to publish compliance reports every month with the details of complaints received and action taken. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

The government package to revive BSNL fortunes

What are the issues that have thwarted the telecom company's expansion and growth?

THE GIST

- Last week, the Union Cabinet approved a ₹1.64 lakh crore revival package for BSNL with a cash component of ₹43,964 crore.
- In March 2020, BSNL had floated a tender to procure 4G equipment to help expand its mobile broadband network. The Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC) raised objections to the tender being 'heavily in favour of multinational companies'. They stated that domestic suppliers could not participate in the tender due to stiff conditions and BSNL had to re-work the tender. The entire burden of supporting indigenously developed equipment for 4G fell on BSNL.
- The government, which said that the 2019 VRS package helped BSNL stabilise and the latest bailout would help it become viable, expects BSNL to become profitable in three to four years from now.

K. BHARAT KUMAR

The story so far: The Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) was incorporated in September 2000 as a company to take over the business of providing telephone connectivity from the central government's Department of Telecom Services. Its operations were meant to service the entire country except New Delhi and Mumbai where MTNL – or Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd – would operate. Last week, the Union Cabinet approved a ₹1.64 lakh crore revival package for BSNL with a cash component of ₹43,964 crore.

What is the plan for recapitalisation?

The non-cash component of ₹1.2 lakh crore, spread over four years, will include administrative allotment of 4G spectrum worth ₹44,993 crore. Capex support of ₹22,471 crore over the next four years to "boost development and deployment of Atmanirbhar 4G stack", viability gap funding of ₹13,789 crore for commercially unviable rural wireline operations done during 2014-15 to 2019-20, debt structuring by raising of bonds with sovereign guarantee worth ₹40,399 crore and financial support for AGR (Adjusted Gross Revenue) dues worth ₹33,404 crore complete the package.

Previously, in 2019, the Cabinet had cleared a package worth close to ₹70,000 crore for the revival of BSNL and MTNL, mainly to fund the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) package for the two firms.

How has BSNL's performance been over the last few years?

BSNL had more than 1.5 lakh employees before the VRS was announced in 2019. About 78,000 had applied to exercise the option. Before the VRS, FY20 numbers showed the loss at ₹15,500 crore, and employee costs at a staggering ₹13,600 crore.

As of June 2021, the employee headcount was 64,000. Note that BSNL spent more than 50% of revenue on employees in FY16. That came down in FY21 to 36%, but compares poorly with, for example, Bharti Airtel whose numbers showed employee expense at about 4% for both FY21 and FY22.

The government, which said that the 2019 package helped BSNL stabilise and the latest ballout would help it become viable, expects BSNL to become profitable in three to four years from now. Recently, Chairman P.K. Purwar has been quoted as saying that FY22 revenue would be a tad lower than the previous year at ₹17,000 crore.

What went wrong with BSNL, which was profitable for much of the first decade of this century?

A report by the Standing Committee on Information Technology presented to Parliament in 2014 under the Demand for Grants quotes a BSNL representative as saying that though private operators started offering mobile services in the late 1990s, BSNL could do so only in 2002. Despite this, it was among one of the top mobile service providers in most circles by 2005-06 when its expansion was going on in full swing. The deposition talks of problems to do with 'non-procurement of equipment' beginning at this time.

What was the issue with procuring equipment?

In March 2020, BSNL had floated a tender to procure 4G equipment to help expand its mobile broadband network. The ₹9,000-crore contract included upgradation of 50,000 sites across the country that 'would position the telecom company to offer high-speed Internet access to its users'. The project was seen as critical for the survival of BSNL as it was already four years behind private firms in unveiling 4G services.

The government has categorically said that one of the reasons BSNL must be supported is to help in the development of indigenous technology

In April 2020, the Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC) raised objections to the tender being 'heavily in favour of multinational companies'. The TEPC is an industry association representing domestic telecom equipment manufacturers such as Tejas Networks, Sterlite, HFCL, and Vihaan Networks. They stated that domestic suppliers could not participate in the tender due to stiff conditions, such as the requirement of previous experience of setting up a mobile network for at least 20 million subscribers. The national security angle also came up.

The government asked BSNL to rework the tender, but the question remained – why did private operators not face the same objection when they placed orders for equipment with foreign companies? Airtel, for instance, gave its $1-billion 4G equipment contract to Nokia of Finland that year. While encouraging domestic OE makers was a good idea, why should the entire burden of supporting indigenously developed equipment meant for 4G, and that too which had not been previously tested, fall on BSNL?

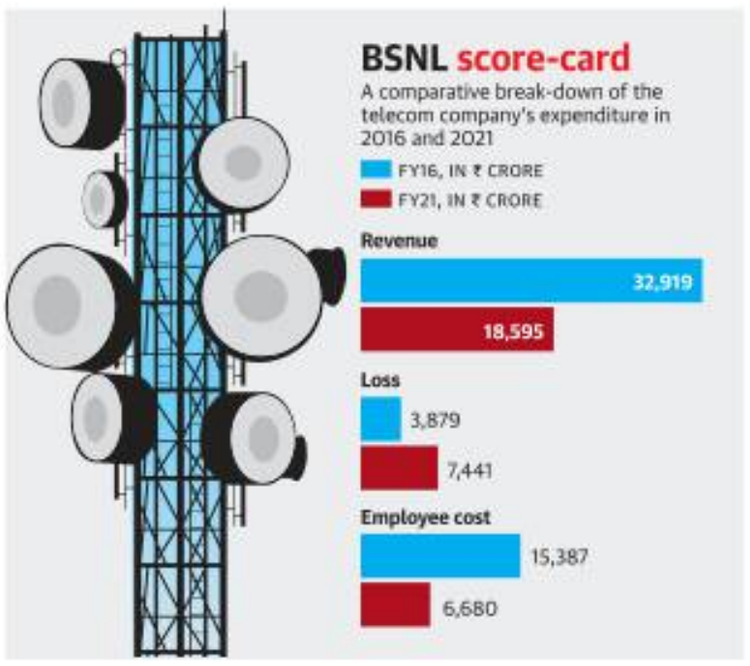
By the looks of it, the pattern of BSNL carrying the burden of proving indigenous technology viable on a mass scale may continue. The government has categorically said that one of the reasons BSNL must be supported is to help in the development of indigenous technology.

Problems surrounding BSNL's access to quality equipment seem to be a recurring issue. In 2008, BSNL came up with an ambitious plan to raise network capacity by 94 million new lines at an investment of $10 billion. This would have made it the world's largest telecom equipment tender at the time. Allegations of irregularity in the process surfaced and the whole plan was scrapped. Naturally, BSNL slipped in terms of customer preference.

Are skillsets a stumbling block too?

The telecom department was also quoted in the 2014 report by the Standing Committee on IT as saying that BSNL and MTNL are not only beset with a large number of employees, but that the skills of these employees were not suited for rendering services to mobile and broadband customers.

That is surprising because, one, BSNL had no trouble between 2002 and 2005-06 in getting to the top in most circles it operated in, as mentioned. Two, the private operators themselves dipped into the cream of BSNL's manpower to set up or scale up their operations. Though the private sector did have successful global partners (Airtel-Singapore Telecom, Essar-Hutchison (now Vodafone-Idea), nobody prevented BSNL from getting the best global consultants and knowhow for its operations.



Should profitability be the goal for such an enterprise?

The government needs a telecom arm for help in disaster relief, and two, for telecom penetration in every nook and cranny of the country as a social obligation. The private sector cannot be reasonably expected to offer services in an area that is not profitable for them. BSNL's merger with the Bharat Broadband Network (BBNL), whose BharatNet optical fibre network of 5.8 lakh km would make for a combined asset of 14 lakh km of optical fibre, is important for socially backward areas where services may not be commercially viable.

But, is it logical to expect the company to turn profitable? After having lost close to two decades in terms of time to compete, is it even feasible to expect the company to become profitable? To boot, BSNL is not a pan-India 4G service provider at a time when more than 98% of the country has 4G coverage. In fact, the latest package for BSNL was announced even as auctions for 5G spectrum were going on.

EXPLAINER

Has bail under PMLA become near-impossible?

How has the Supreme Court changed its view on Section 45 (1) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002?

G.S. BAJPAI
ANKIT KAUSHIK

The story so far: Recently, the Supreme Court in the case of *Vijay Madanlal Chaudhary vs Union of India* gave the judicial stamp of approval to the twin conditions of bail under Section 45(1) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA). The conditions were contested as being arbitrary and draconian in as much as they reverse the presumption of innocence at the stage of bail. The judgment is of immense importance given that delay or denial in grant of bail was recently identified by the Supreme Court in the case of *Satender Kumar Antil vs CBI* as being a leading factor in the perpetration of injustice in our criminal justice system.

What are the conditions under Section 45(1) of the PMLA?

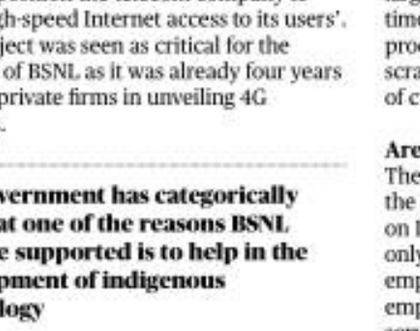
The PMLA was enacted with the objective to prevent money laundering. The Act provides for a higher threshold for the grant of bail as compared to the standard procedure under the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). Section 45(1) of the PMLA requires that before a person is released on bail or bond, the public prosecutor must initially be given an opportunity to oppose the application and secondly, when the application is opposed, the court must be satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for believing that the accused is not guilty of the offence and is not likely to commit any crime while out on bail.

Are there other Acts which impose such conditions?

A similar provision is provided for in Section 43D(5) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 which requires the court to provide an opportunity to the public prosecutor to oppose the bail application and to not release the accused on bail if there are reasonable grounds for believing that the accusation is prima facie true. Section 37(1) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 too is in pari materia with Section 45(1) of the PMLA. Previously, Section 20(8) of the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act, 1987 (TADA) also carried similar conditions for grant of bail.

What was the earlier position of the court on Section 45(1)?

The validity of the twin requirements under Section 20(8) of the TADA Act had been upheld by the Supreme Court in the



case of *Kartar Singh vs State of Punjab* (1994) on the grounds that the courts have to balance the interest of the victims and the community as well as the safety of the nation with the liberty of the accused. In the case of *Nikesh Tarachand Shah vs Union of India* (2018), however, the Court differentiated between the wordings of Section 20(8) of the TADA Act and Section 45(1) in two important regards – that Section 20(8) of the TADA Act applied to a 'most heinous' offence and that the previously un-amended Section 45(1) under challenge in the Nikesh Shah case did not pertain to an offence under the PMLA Act but only to a predicatory offence listed in Schedule A. The Supreme Court, in that case, held Section 45(1) to be unconstitutional and violative of Articles 14 and 21 of the Indian Constitution and struck it down.

Why has the Supreme Court reversed its position now?

Post the Supreme Court's judgment in the Nikesh Shah case, Section 45(1) was amended vide Act 13 of 2018 and the revised section made the twin conditions for grant of bail applicable to all offences under the PMLA. This amended section was again challenged before the Supreme Court in the recent Vijay Madanlal case. The Supreme Court has held that as Section 45 was not obliterated from the statute book but was merely held to be unconstitutional, the Parliament was free to revive the provision by curing the defect. With respect to the first differentiation made between Section 20(8) of TADA and Section 45(1) of the PMLA, the three-judge bench of the Supreme Court in Vijay Madanlal case held that money laundering could not be considered as any lesser an offence than the offence of terrorism sought to be tackled under TADA. It stated that the offence of money laundering had a "direct impact on the financial systems and sovereignty and integrity of the countries," and held it to be a heinous crime.

What are the implications of the Supreme Court's judgment?

The twin conditions, when examined independently require the Court to take a judicial call on the potential guilt of the offender based on the material supplied by the accused in the bail application and the opposition made to the same by the prosecution. In doing so, the provision overturns the settled principle of presumption of innocence which dictates that an undertrial remains innocent until he is proven guilty. These safeguards have been built into the procedure under the CrPC so as to ensure that the due process values enshrined in our Constitution find practical application.

The Vijay Madanlal case decision comes from a three-judge bench of the Supreme Court and therefore conclusively overrules the judgment by the division bench of the Supreme Court in the Nikesh Shah case. In upholding Section 45(1) of the PMLA, the Court has made the twin conditions for the grant of bail constitutionally valid in the name of national security related expediency. It is trite to say that under such stringent conditions, jail becomes the rule while bail is the exception.

G. S. Bajpai is the Vice Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, where Ankit is Assistant Professor

THE GIST

- The Supreme Court in the case of Vijay Madanlal Chaudhary vs Union of India gave judicial approval to the twin conditions of bail under Section 45(1) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.
- Section 45(1) of the PMLA requires that before a person is released on bail, the public prosecutor must be given an opportunity to oppose the application and secondly, when the application is opposed, the court must be satisfied that the accused is not guilty.
- The SC by upholding such stringent provisions overturns the principle of presumption of innocence – that an undertrial remains innocent until he is proven guilty.

MEMU trains to airport an affordable choice

However, the service has very few takers as of now

A MEMU train arriving at the Kempegowda International Airport Halt station in Bengaluru. •SUDHAKARA JAIN

SUCHITH KIDIYOOR
BENGALURU

The introduction of MEMU (Mainline Electrical Multiple Unit) express special service trains from various points in the city to Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) by the South Western Railway (SWR) may be an affordable and convenient transport facility, but the public is yet to make use of it.

On Monday, this reporter travelled in a MEMU train from Bengaluru Cantonment to the halt station located on the boundary of the airport. The train left from the original point at 12.20 p.m. and reached the KIA halt station at 1.20 p.m. as per the time table. A total of five people travelled in the train that had 8 coaches and none of them were either air passengers or employees working at the airport. All of them travelled in the train to have an experience of travelling in MEMU to Devanahalli.

Puneet, a student who boarded the train at Yelahanka, said: "I got to know about the SWR introducing the electric train to Devanahalli. Out of curiosity, I travelled with two of my friends. It was a good experience."

Another traveller said: "While boarding, I thought many people would travel in the train. It is surprising that all the coaches are running empty." At the KIA halt station, a feeder bus was ready to ferry passengers to the airport.

In the return direction on Monday, the train that left Devanahalli at 2 p.m. and reached Cantonment at 3.12 p.m., only a few passengers travelled. Damodara R. who travelled from Devanahalli said: "I got to know about the train service through a mobile app. The train is a cheaper option of travel and more convenient than bus or taxi. The authorities should run MEMU trains up to Chickballapur to increase the patronage."

The public can travel to and from the airport to city points by spending ₹30 to ₹35. The train services have been introduced from Bengaluru Cantonment, KSR Bengaluru and Yelahanka. The SWR has maintained that schedule of trains were fixed after consulting Bengaluru International Airport Limited (BIAL), the operator of Bengaluru airport. The SWR is running five pairs of MEMU trains from the city to Devanahalli.

Need to popularise

There is a need to popularise the service among the public and people working on the airport campus. When contacted, a spokesperson of BIAL said, "For the benefit of people working in various sectors in airlines, cargo concessionaires, security and others, we will shortly roll out international communication. Through posters, standees, and emails, information regarding new train services will be made available. In this regard, we will work with the HR division of respective organisations." Airport community has a strength of 28,000 people.

People living in villages located close to the halt station have demanded the authorities give access to the station. "From Bachhehalli gate, the halt station can be linked through a road network. Earlier, there was a narrow path but it has been closed now. If access is given to the halt station, people living in Kanmangla, Bhuvanahalli and others will benefit and the patronage will also increase for the train services." There is a demand to extend the services till Chickballapur.

Other routes

Rail activists say that the introduction of train services from Hosur, Whitefield, Bidadi, Tumakuru side will help increase patronage. "Introduction of MEMU services is a good development. MEMU services are well received on suburban routes. Running trains from various points via the CBD areas will help in increasing the patronage over the period. The public, especially people working at the airport, should be encouraged to use the service," said Sanjeev Dyamannavar.

Chief PRO of SWR Aneesh Hegde said, "The SWR has introduced the MEMU services after demand by the public and rail activists. We are promoting the services through social media and other platforms." Last year, the SWR had introduced the train services. Due to various factors, the services were suspended for months and restarted recently.

CCB unearths drug racket at PG accommodation

Police seize drugs worth ₹2 cr. from five accused who have been peddling narcotics since September

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Anti-Narcotics Wing of the CCB on Tuesday unearthed an inter-State drug racket and arrested five persons. The police seized ₹2 crore worth of synthetic drugs which the accused had stored in rooms of their paying guest accommodation. They supplied the drugs through delivery apps.

Based on a tip-off, a team of officials led by Inspector B.S. Ashok arrested Vishal Kumar, Sagar Mehta, Bimashu Thakur, Mahabali Singh, and Sukhjith Singh. Investigations have revealed they were peddling narcotics since September 2021.

The police seized MDMA, LSD, cocaine, hashish, charas, ecstasy, and high quality marijuana from the PG accommodation in Marathahalli and Whitefield.

Unemployed graduates

The accused are unemployed graduates from Delhi and Bihar who were recruited through Locanto by their handler, who is operating from Delhi. The main accused had placed the ad on Locanto with a tittle "If you want earn respect with money and also willing to do anything for it, contact me" to get local peddlers for Delhi, Bengaluru, Mumbai, and Chennai where his operations were active.

- The peddlers were offered food and accommodation with a salary of ₹50,000 per month for packing the drugs neatly in a gift wrapper and also under the pretext of medicine.

The accused offered them food and accommodation with a salary of ₹50,000 per month for packing the drugs neatly in a gift wrapper and also under the pretext of medicine, with 'handle with care' stickers. The prime accused who is yet to be arrested is sourcing the drugs from darknet and paying for it through crypto currency.

Parcel through courier

The consignment he is getting used to be parcelled through courier agencies or India Post to the PGs, which he had taken on rent.

The racket was so systematic that there was no direct contact between the five arrested and the customers. The customers would contact the peddlers through Telegram, Instagram, Briar, Confdide, and session apps and deliver the drugs through delivery apps after payment was made through google or Gpay.

The Narcotics Wing while probing a drug case stumbled upon the information from an addict.

The police are now on the lookout for the prime accused. Efforts are on to track him down while all the five accused have been booked under NDPS Act.

8-year-old dies after inhaling toxic fumes

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

An eight-year-old girl died after inhaling toxic fumes of the pest control pesticide sprayed at her house in Vasanth Nagar on Monday. Her parents have been admitted to the hospital.

The deceased Ahana was living in a rented accommodation with with her parents Vinod Kumar and Nisha, near Maramma temple, for the last five years. Vinod Kumar was working in a private firm while Ahana was studying in a private school.

The family had complained to the house owner, S. Shivaprasad, about pests for which he asked them to stay away from the house for four days so that he can get the pest control spray done through an agency.

Accordingly, deal Vinod Kumar left to his native Kerala after handing over the keys but returned soon with the family and got into the house using duplicate keys without the knowledge of the house owner.

The incident came to light when Vinod Kumar started feeling uneasy and came out of the house calling for help. The house owner and neighbor rushed to his help and found Ahana lying unconscious on the sofa. The family was rushed to a nearby hospital where Ahana succumbed. The High Grounds police have filed an unnatural death registry report and are awaiting autopsy report, for further probe.

Meanwhile, Vinod and his wife are recovering at the hospital.

New PNB branch opened in Kothanur

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The 142nd branch of the Punjab National Bank (PNB) in Karnataka was opened recently in Bengaluru.

Minister for Urban Development Byrathi Basavaraj inaugurated the branch on K. Narayanapura Main Road, Kothanur, here.

Railway muesum, park at Nandi Halt station

SWR is renovating four heritage railway stations on Yelahanka-Chickballapur line

The heritage building at Doddajala station that has been restored; (right) the Nandi Halt station where works will be taken up and (below) the Devanahallli station where renovation is under way. •SUCHITH KIDIYOOR

SUCHITH KIDIYOOR
BENGALURU

The city's first-ever railway museum will come at Nandi Halt station, a heritage structure part of the Yelahanka-Chickballapur line.

There are four heritage stations located on the line – Doddajala, Devanahalli, Avathihalli and Nandi Halt. The South Western Railway had roped in the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) for renovation of these stations with a theme. Renovation of Doddajala station has already been completed and work is underway at Devanahalli and Avathihalli and is expected to be completed in two months. At Nandi Halt station, along with the renovation, SWR has now proposed to construct a railway museum and railway park.

Kusuma Hairprasad, Additional Divisional Railway Manager, told *The Hindu* that tender for the museum and park will be floated within a few days. It will be the first museum of Bengaluru division. SWR has already developed a railway museum in Mysuru and Hubballi. "The Cantonment-Chickballapur line has historical significance as it was built during the British Era. At Nandi Halt, using the railway land we are building a museum. SWR has already sanctioned ₹2.35 crore for the project that will come up opposite the heritage structure."

The official said that apart from renovation and museum work, the SWR has also proposed to take up a groundwater rejuvenating project near the railway land where Dakshina Pinakini river flows. The river originates from Nandi Hills which is located around 2.5 km from the heritage station.

Share items

SWR has requested retired railway employees, public, institutions and NGO's to share items of historic value or of significance pertaining to Railways such as books, reports, files, journals, photographs, slides, notes, sketches, pamphlets, documents, magazines, layout plans, tape recordings, audio/video cassettes, films, pictures, furniture, stamps, models, statues, newspaper clippings and other artifacts available with them. These articles will be displayed at art galleries at these heritage centers.

Interested people can contact Rakesh K. Prabhu, heritage secretary/Bengaluru division on 9731666400 or Shekhar S., heritage group member on 8197311836.

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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, SUNJAY Aryan S/o Jai Deo Prasad R/o 119/371, Darshanpurwa, Kanpur- Uttar Pradesh have changed my name to Sunjay Kumar and my new address is 87/110 (4)-2 Krishna Campound, Bhannanapurwa, Kanpur- Uttar Pradesh- 208003 vide affidavit dated 02-05-2022 sworn before Notary Mr. A.K. Tiwari, Kanpur (U.P.)

I, Amitha Subrao D/o Subrao Narayanappa W/o Gokul Rajaram, R/o. B 602, Vajram Tiara, Doddaballapur Main Road, Avalahalli, , Bengaluru-560064, changed my name to Amitha Gokul for all purposes.

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, KHURATH Ul Ain, R/o Flat No.002, Fathima Regency, No.9, Kumaraswamy Naidu Road, Frazer Town, Bangalore-560005 have changed my name to Khurath Ul Ain Pannikar, vide affidavit dt: 30.07.2022 sworn before Notary H.S.Sakalesh Aradhya, B'lore.

I, ARCHANA Umapathi Ghanathe, R/a No.284, 5th Main, 1st Stage, KHB Colony, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore-560079 have changed my name to Archana Praveen Sulakhe vide affidavit dt: 02.08.2022 sworn before Notary A.Manjula, B'lore

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF ADDL.CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE (CCH-83) AT BANGALORE
Com. O.S. No.1443 /2014
BETWEEN: 1. SRI. A. KIRAN KUMAR, S/o A. Phaniraj, aged about 38 years, R/at No.14/161(Old), 14/233 (New) Kamalanagar, Ananthpur, Ananthpur District-515001, (A.P) 2. SRI. PALLE CHANDRASEKHARA REDDY, S/o Late P. ChinnaVenkata Reddy, aged about 63 years, R/at 18-1-299, Venugopal Nagar, Old Town Anantapur-515001 .... PLAINTIFFS
AND: Sri. DR. B. LAKSHMANAGUPTA & OTHERS ... DEFENDANTS
Suit Summons/ Notice to Defendants No. 4, 5, 6 & 9 under Order V Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure
Defendant No.4: SRI. B. KRISHNA MURTHY, S/o. Late B. L. BetaiahSetty, aged about 56 years, R/at. No.410, 7th Main, 50 Feet Road, Hanumanthanagar, Bangalore-560019. Defendant No.5: SRI. B.K. ABINAND, S/o B. Krishna Murthy, aged about 27 years, Defendant No.6: SRI. B.K. KARTHIK, S/o B. Krishnamurthy, aged about 22 years, Defendant No. 5 and 6 are Residing at No.410, 7th Main, 50 Feet Road, Hanumanthanagar, Bangalore-560019. Defendant No.9: M/s. SAMPURNA BUILDERS, A Registered Partnership Firm, Having its Registered Office At No.85, "Flat No.2 and 2A", Ground Floor, Vaibhav Apartment, Gandhi Bazaar Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560 004. Represented by its Partner : SRI. V. RAGHAVENDRA, S/o Vasudevachar .N, aged about 45 years.
Whereas the Plaintiffs named above have instituted the above suit against the defendants for specific performance of contract and other reliefs. In the above suit you are hereby summoned to appear in this court in person or by a pleader on the day of 01-09-2022 At 11 'o' Clock to answer the same. Failing which the suit will be heard and determined as ex-parte.
SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY
(Description of the entire property on which it is constructed)
All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Municipal Old No.169/1 and 169/2, New No.192/1 & 192, New No.13 and 14, present Municipal No. 13, BBMP PID No. 50-5-13, situated at Vasavi Temple Road, V.V.Puram, Bangalore measuring East to West: 2502 feet and North to South: 42.5 feet and bounded on: EAST BY: CONSERVANCY LANE, WEST BY: VASAVI TEMPLE ROAD, NORTH BY: S.V. SRINIVASA SETTY'S BUNGALOW, SOUTH BY: V.E.T. SCHOOL.
SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY
(Description of properties undivided share hereby conveyed)
An undivided 3.5% i.e. 372Square Feet of undivided right, share, title and interest and ownership of land in Schedule "A" Property.
SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY
(Description Of Constructed Portion Hereby Conveyed)
Commercial space bearing NO.G-5, constructed on the Ground floor, of the building known as "SAMPURNA CHAMBERS" constructed in the Schedule 'A' Property, having a super built-up area of 997 Square feet together with exclusive right to use a covered car parking bearing No.6 and walls constructed with cement and bricks, doors made of hone wood, steel windows, with vitrified tiles flooring and provide with all civic amenities and with proportionate share in the common area, entrances, stair cases, passages, corridors, lifts etc., provided in the schedule A Property.
SCHEDULE 'D' PROPERTY
STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS:-
SUPERSTRUCTURE: RCC Framed Structure with solid concrete Block walls, FLOORING: Vitrified tiles for commercial areas. Stairs, corridors with marble/granite. TOILETS: One toilet for each commercial block. Antiskid ceramic flooring and ceramic glazed wall tiling up to 4' height. Matching pastel shade sanitary ware and Chromium plated plumbing fittings of ISI mark. WINDOWS: 2 track power coated sliding aluminum windows with M.S. safety grills. PAINTING: Long lasting Acrylic distemper for all internal walls and ceiling, enamel paint for grills, external walls finished with combination of structural glazing aluminum cladding and texture finish. WIRING/SWITCHES: Concealed copper wiring for all points. Appropriate 5 amps and 15 Amps points with switchboards and quality modular switches of Anchor Roam or equivalent make.
Given under my hand and the seal of the court on this 01-08-2022.
By order of the Court, Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.
B.N. Jagadeesh Babu, Advocate #548/51/1, 1st Floor, Garuthman Park, Andal Temple Street, R.V Road (Behind R.V Teachers College), Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560004.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Dr.SanthoshKumar S/o Late Shivalingaiah R/at Door No.633, 6th Cross, 6th Main, 1st Stage, Vijayanagara, Mysuru would like to inform the general public that the original documents Allotment Letter, Possession Certificate and Lease cum Agreement with respect to the property bearing site No.524/F, 8th Cross, 7th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore allotted by Bangalore City Improvement Turst board in the name of my mother Late Smt. Uma Shivalingaiah has been lost. If found please contact: 9845353059 or at the below address.
OFFICE ADDRESS
2547/1, 1st Floor, Kantharaja Urs Road, K.G.Koppalu, Mysuru.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE (CCH-83) AT BANGALORE
Com. O.S. No.1442 /2014
BETWEEN: 1. SRI. A. KIRAN KUMAR, S/o A. Phaniraj, aged about 38 years, R/at No.14/161(Old), 14/233 (New) Kamalanagar, Ananthpur, Ananthpur District-515 001, (A.P) 2. SRI. KAMBOJI MALLIKARJUNA, S/o K.C. Gangasetty, aged about 46 years, R/at 3-3-5, Ammavarusulu Veedhi, Pulivendula- 516390 (A.P) ... PLAINTIFFS
AND: Sri DR. B. LAKSHMANAGUPTA & OTHERS ... DEFENDANTS
Suit Summons/ Notice to Defendants No. 4, 5 & 6, under Order V Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure
Defendant No.4: SRI. B. KRISHNA MURTHY, S/o Late B. L. Betaiah Setty, aged about 56 years, Defendant No.5: SRI. B.K. ABINAND, S/o B. Krishna Murthy, aged about 27 years, Defendant No.6: SRI. B.K. KARTHIK, S/o. B. Krishnamurthy, aged about 22 years, Defendant No. 4, 5 and 6 are residing at No.410, 7th Main, 50 Feet Road, Hanumanthanagar, Bangalore-560 019.
Whereas the Plaintiffs named above have instituted the above suit against the defendants for specific performance of contract and other reliefs. In the above suit you are hereby summoned to appear in this court in person or by a pleader on the day of 01-09-2022 At 11 'o' Clock to answer the same. Failing which the suit will be heard and determined as ex-parte.
SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY
(Description of the entire property on which it is constructed)
All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Municipal Old No.169/1 and 169/2, New No.192/1 & 192, New No.13 and 14, present Municipal No. 13, BBMP PID No. 50-5-13, situated at Vasavi Temple Road, V.V.Puram, Bangalore measuring East to West: 2502 feet and North to South: 42.5 feet and bounded on: EAST BY: CONSERVANCY LANE, WEST BY: VASAVI TEMPLE ROAD, NORTH BY: S.V. SRINIVASA SETTY'S BUNGALOW, SOUTH BY: V.E.T. SCHOOL.
SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY
(Description of properties undivided share hereby conveyed)
An undivided 3% i.e. 319 Square Feet of undivided right, share, title and interest and ownership of land in Schedule "A" Property.
SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY
(Description Of Constructed Portion Hereby Conveyed)
Commercial space bearing NO. S-5A, constructed on the second floor, of the building known as "SAMPURNA CHAMBERS" constructed in the Schedule 'A' Property, having a super built-up area of 1023 Square feet together with exclusive right to use a covered car parking bearing NO.18 and walls constructed with cement and bricks, doors made of hone wood, steel windows, with vitrified tiles flooring and provide with all civic amenities and with proportionate share in the common area, entrances, stair cases, passages, corridors, lifts etc., provided in the schedule A Property.
SCHEDULE 'D' PROPERTY
STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS:-
SUPERSTRUCTURE: RCC Framed Structure with solid concrete Block walls. FLOORING: Vitrified tiles for commercial areas. Stairs, corridors with marble/granite. TOILETS: One toilet for each commercial block. Antiskid ceramic flooring and ceramic glazed wall tiling up to 4' height. Matching pastel shade sanitary ware and Chromium plated plumbing fittings of ISI mark. WINDOWS: 2 track power coated sliding aluminum windows with M.S. safety grills. PAINTING: Long lasting Acrylic distemper for all internal walls and ceiling, enamel paint for grills, external walls finished with combination of structural glazing aluminum cladding and texture finish. WIRING/SWITCHES: Concealed copper wiring for all points. Appropriate 5 amps and 15 Amps points with switchboards and quality modular switches of Anchor Roam or equivalent make.
Given under my hand and the seal of the court on this 01-08-2022.
By order of the Court, Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.
B.N. Jagadeesh Babu, Advocate #548/51/1, 1st Floor, Garuthman Park, Andal Temple Street, R.V Road (Behind R.V Teachers College), Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560004.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LXI ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE (CCH- 62) AT BANGALORE
ORIGINAL SUIT NO. 3915 OF 2017
BETWEEN
ICICI Bank Ltd.
A body corporate incorporated And registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 and licensed As a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 having Registered Office at : "Landmark", Race Course Circle Vadodara- 390007, & having its Branch office at ICICI Bank Ltd., 11th Floor, C Wing, Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560001 and represented by its POA holder and Manager Mr. Pramodh G, S/o. Gurumallappa, Age: 45 Years. ...PLAINTIFF
AND
Sri. Venkatesh V ...DEFENDANT
Summons to the defendant by way of paper publication
To,
Defendants :
Mr. Venkatesh V,
Aged about 32 years,
Son of Venkataravanappa,
R/at. # 16, 1st Cross,
Ghandipuram, Near Govt. School,
Whitefield, Bangalore- 560066.
Whereas the plaintiff above named has filed a suit under Order VII Rule 1 of the Civil Procedure Code for recovery of Rs. 2,96,840/- (Rupees Two Lakhs Ninety Six Thousand Eight Hundred And Forty Only) together with interest at the rate 18% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization. You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court (CCH- 62), in person or by a pleader on the 19th Day of September 2022 at 11:00 am to show cause against the suit, and failing wherein the suit will be heard and determined ex-parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court this 27th day of July 2022.
By Order of the Court
Asst. Registrar,
City Civil Court,
Bangalore
Advocate for Plaintiff
S.M. ANEES AHAMED,
B.M. KUSHALAPPA,
Advocates,
No.4 (10/2), West Park Road,
Kumara Park East, Bangalore-560001.

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, I.SANGEETHA Kumari, R/a No.1288, 1st Main road, Gandhinagar, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560054 have changed my name to Sangeetha, vide affidavit dt: 27.07.2022 sworn before Notary A.Manjula, B'lore.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-21)
O.S. NO. 25751/2022
Between
ICICI Bank Limited,
Having its Registered Office at Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007 and having its Corporate Office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400051 and its Branch Office at Mystree Centre, # 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560 067
...Plaintiff
And
Bodhisattwa Chakraborty
...Defendant
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT
To,
Bodhisattwa Chakraborty, S/o. Mr. Sukdeb Chakraborty, Aged about 38 years, D-235, Amity Harmony, Chennasandra, Behind RMSIT College, Bangalore- 560104
WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of Rs.3,48,590/- (Rupees Three Lakh Forty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Only) together with interest @ 24% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH-21) in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on 05/09/2022 at 11:00 a.m. failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this 27/07/2022.
By Order of the Hon'ble Court
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court, Mayohall Unit At Bangalore
ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
S. A. Associates, No.10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore- 560 047

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THE HINDU
Text & Context

KEYWORD

Tokenism

While symbolic gestures are important, they must be backed by concrete action to become meaningful

THE GIST

- Tokenism is the act of doing something in order to show that a person/company is including people from minority or marginalised groups, but without sincerity and without showing an intent to increase diversity and promote inclusivity.
- Tokenistic acts can be dangerous and counter-productive for the tokens. One, they do not change prejudices about the community and secondly they don't contribute to diversity, for diversity is more than just mere representation.
- Tokenism can be felt at the individual level, the institutional level and at the systemic level. Unless there are efforts, at all three levels, true diversity and inclusivity will remain a myth.

RADHIKA SANTHANAM

Last year, when former Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced that a word would be changed in 'Advance Australia Fair', the country's national anthem, from "For we are young and free" to "For we are one and free," the move was criticised by many for being tokenistic. Every now and then, we read critical pieces about how cinema often displays token characters to represent marginalised communities, thus perpetuating stereotypes about them. We hear the word 'tokenism' everywhere these days: in discussions on politics, in debates on representation in films, and at workplaces.

Counter-productive and dangerous

Tokenism is the act of doing something in order to show that a person/company is including people from minority or marginalised groups, but without sincerity and without showing an intent to increase diversity and promote inclusivity. The members of a group – whether women, or black people, or people from lower castes – are hired only because of their difference with other dominant members –i.e., men, white people, people of higher castes. Tokenism serves the interests of the dominant group. For example, in a company, hiring more women is the easy, temporary fix to a structural problem and gives the company "evidence" to show that there is no discrimination at the workplace. In such scenarios, the hires, or tokens, become mere props or symbols.

Tokenistic acts can be dangerous and counter-productive for the tokens. One, they do not change prejudices about the community in question; on the contrary, they may, in fact, only reaffirm them – for example, if a black man in a film dominated by white men and women is depicted as brutish and hypersexual. Two, they don't contribute to diversity, for diversity is more than just mere representation. For instance, if a woman is hired at a male-dominated workplace but her ideas or inputs are not considered, this defeats the purpose of hiring her so that the company can have diverse views. And three, they provide some ammunition to those engaging in these acts to ward off critics. For instance, in films, having tokenistic characters allows directors to escape the responsibility of doing some serious research on the character's historical, political and cultural background and accurately portraying her with nuance.

Origins of the term

In "Tokenism and Women in the Workplace: The Limits of Gender-Neutral Theory", Lynn Zimmer wrote, "Perhaps Judith Long Laws (1975) can be credited with popularising the concept of tokenism with her analysis of the special problems faced by women who entered the male-dominated academic setting."

Tokens are never permitted by 'insiders' to become full members and may even be ejected if they stray too far from the special 'niche' outlined for them

Laws wrote that the token is permitted entrance, but cannot fully participate. This makes "the token woman similar to Georg Simmel's 'stranger' (1950) and Everett Hughes's 'outsider' (1945): someone who meets all the formal requirements for entrance into a group but does not possess the 'auxiliary characteristics' (especially race, sex and ethnicity) that are expected of persons in that position. Consequently, tokens are never permitted by 'insiders' to become full members and may even be ejected if they stray too far from the special 'niche' outlined for them."

In 1977, Rosabeth Kanter, in *Men and Women of the Corporation*, studied a large corporation, Indsco, and found that the majority of women there remained concentrated in typically female jobs. Among those who did move into management positions, many failed to achieve equality with men.

As tokens, women were scrutinised more, felt overwhelmed to perform, and tended to overachieve or underachieve. Being tokens also psychologically impacted the women, who either went out of their way to emphasise their "outsider" status or tried hard to become insiders, without fully succeeding. While Kanter believed that hiring more women would solve the problem, others have argued that power, prestige and privilege are the issues that need to be tackled.

Fighting tokenism

Let's take the two examples given in the first part of this article – of the Australian anthem and depiction in films. In the first instance, Mr. Morrison was criticised because the health conditions, life expectancy and other determinants of well-being are all higher among non-indigenous Australians compared to indigenous Australians, also referred to as First Nations Australians. Conversely, rates of incarceration and deaths in custody are higher among First Nations Australians. So, how can all Australians feel "one" when there are clear differences and discrimination between the treatment of non-indigenous Australians versus indigenous Australians? The solution is to ensure that non-indigenous Australians have better access to healthcare and a good life and are also not discriminated by the police and other arms of the state. In other words, to be inclusive requires effort, time and a long-term view. While symbolic gestures, such as replacing a word in the anthem, are important, they are far from sufficient. Symbols must be backed by concrete action.

Similarly, simply portraying a gay character in a film or series is mere tokenism unless that character is well written, has a definite arc like the other characters, and has some purpose in the story.

The manner in which the character of David Rose (played by Dan Levy) was written in the Canadian series *Schitt's Creek* was appreciated across the world. There was an easy acceptance of the character in the town where the series was set, yet no downplay of the queerness; the discussions about being queer were positive and breezy; and there was no 'big deal' about the character belonging to the LGBT community. David Rose was unapologetic, funny, sarcastic and went through the same motions as the rest of the characters did.

Tokenism can be felt at the individual level, the institutional level and at the systemic level. Unless there are efforts, both short and long term, at all three levels, true diversity and inclusivity will remain a chimera.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Germany declared war on France on August 3, 1914. On August 3, 1940, the Italian forces began the invasion of British Somaliland. Here is a quiz on wars and invasions from across the world

1 Known as Operation Cast Lead and Battle of al-Furqan, this was a three-week armed conflict between two forces that began in 2008. Which were the two forces on the opposite sides? What is it also known as, in the Muslim world?

2 The UAE deployed more than a hundred troops with artillery and armoured vehicles to Socotra in 2018. The troops were deployed in an oceanic strait off the tip of the Horn of Africa that lies between the Puntland region of Somalia and Socotra to the west of the Arabian Sea. What is the strait called?

3 The U.S. and a coalition of six Caribbean nations invaded the island nation of Grenada on October 25, 1983. What was it codenamed as? The date of the invasion is now a national holiday in Grenada. What is it called?

4 The Nigerian Civil War was a civil war fought between the government of Nigeria and the Republic of Biafra between 1967 and 1970. The conflict mostly happened because the leadership of the ethnic group in Biafra felt they could no longer coexist with the federal government dominated by the interests of a Muslim race in Nigeria. Name the Biafra ethnic group and the Nigerian Muslim race.

5 The Bay of Pigs Invasion was a failed landing operation on the southwestern coast of Cuba in 1961 by Cuban exiles. This was covertly financed and directed by the U.S. government. These Cuban exiles were known for opposing an armed revolt in Cuba. What is the revolt called? Who was it led by?

6 Operation Polo was the code name of this operation. It was a military operation in which the Indian Armed Forces invaded a princely state, annexing it into the Indian Union. Which was the princely state that was invaded?

7 A ten-week undeclared war between Argentina and the U.K. in 1982 erupted over two British-dependent territories in the South Atlantic. Which were the two territories?

Compiled by: Sindhu Nagaraj

Identify this image. What is happening here? Following this incident, a protracted armed conflict happened between which two countries from 2003-2011?

Please send in your answers to the **dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in**

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This democratic socialist leader was elected as Prime Minister of his country in 1961 and as President in 1992. **Ans: Cheddi Jagan from Guyana**

2. This leader became President of his country in 1999, a post that he served till 2011. **Ans: S. R. Nathan from Singapore**

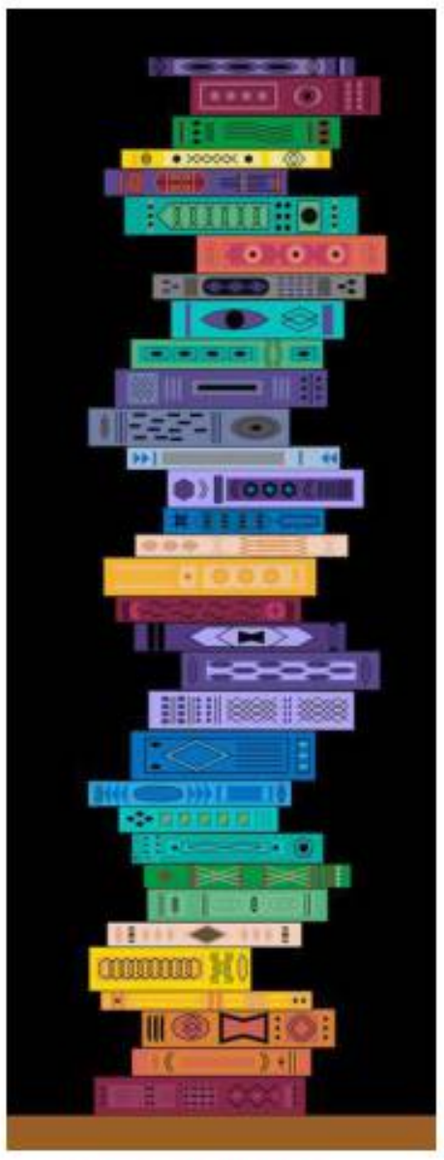
3. The grandson of an indentured labourer from Rohtak, Haryana, this person went on to become the first Indian origin head of state in his country. **Ans: Mahendra Chaudhry from Fiji**

4. Born to an Indian origin doctor who had moved to the U.K. in the 1960s, this leader went on to become the first openly gay Minister and later head of government in his country. **Ans: Leo Varadkar from Ireland**

5. The first woman of Indian origin to be a Prime Minister outside South Asia, she was also the first female Commonwealth Chairperson-in-office. **Ans: Kamala Persad-Bissessar from Trinidad & Tobago**

Visual: Name this leader. **Ans: Antonio Costa from Portugal**

Early Birds: Varghese Joseph| Rupali Chaudhari



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

"Good morning, sir".

"Good morning".

"I met Mr. Ram as per your instructions, sir".

"Thank you. 'As per' is officialese. Government departments in India are fond of 'as per'. It was used first by business people. It is still used by them. In Britain and America business people and government departments are being urged to use simple English. Prizes are given to departments which write plain English. The other day I received a letter from a business firm in India.

"*Your esteemed favour of 15th ult and enclosed please find the brochure and oblige*".

This is terribly old-fashioned. Nobody writes like this in the English-speaking countries. *Ernest Cowers* in his *ABC of Plain Words* quotes from the report of the Departmental Committee on the Teaching of English in England (1921): "We have no hesitation in reporting that Commercial English is not only objectionable to all those who have the purity of the language at heart, but also contrary to the true interests of commercial life, sapping its vitality and encouraging the use of dry, meaningless, formulae just where vigorous and arresting English is the chief requisite.

"Some readers of the Report may be unacquainted with "commercial English". We therefore give a few examples of the words and idiom in the dailect – *prox* (next month); *ult* (last month); *of even date* (of today); *beg to or hereby beg to* (a meaningless prefix, found before verbs of all kinds, e.g. "I beg to inform you" "hereby beg to say" etc), *your favour, your esteemed favour, yours* (your letter), *I am in receipt of your favour, your favour duty to hand, or more familiarly, yours to hand* (Your letter has reached me), *per* (by); *as per* (in accordance with); *same* (it, e.g. "Yours to hand and we beg to say we shall give all attention to same"); *make or quote you* (make you an offer, e.g. "We can make you a discount of six per cent". "My traveller had the pleasure of quoting you for the order"); *The favour of your immediate reply will oblige* (I shall be glad to hear from you at once)".

"What is the difference between 'pretence' and 'pretension', sir?".

" 'Pretence' means 'the act of pretending', 'false appearance or action intended to deceive'.

He is not really a democrat. He makes a pretence of being democratic.

He is not sleeping. It is only a pretence.

He makes a pretence of being generous.

It is not real love. It is only a pretence of love.

I don't like music but I made a pretence of enjoying it.

"Pretension' means 'a claim to something, such as a privilege, right or other position of distinction of importance'.

I make no pretensions to scholarship.

I wonder whether he has any pretensions to be considered an economist.

I have no pretensions to spirituality.

Well, let's call it a day. Goodbye"

"Thank your, sir. Goodbye".

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

ED attaches property of former councillor

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Enforcement Directorate (ED), on Monday, attached immovable assets to the tune of ₹3.35 crore in the disproportionate assets case against C.G. Gowramma, former BBMP councillor of Azad Nagar in Chamarajpet constituency, and her husband Govindaraju.

The ED initiated a money laundering investigation on the basis of a chargesheet filed by the Lokayukta police against the couple for offence committed under sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, and sections 120-B of criminal conspiracy of the Indian Penal Code.

Investigation revealed that Gowramma, during the period as a councillor, misused her official position and generated proceeds of crime in collusion with her husband and laundered the generated proceeds by crediting the same into their bank accounts in cash as well as by acquiring various immovable properties in cash.

Disproportionate assets

According to the release, Gowramma and her husband were alleged to have acquired disproportionate assets to the tune of ₹3.46 crore during the check period from financial year 2010-11 to 2012-2013 and amassed immovable properties, including agricultural land, residential plots as well as commercial sites.

Ravichandran is Principal Chief Commissioner of I-T Dept.

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

R. Ravichandran took charge as the Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax Department, Karnataka and Goa, on August 1.

According to an official release, Mr. Ravichandran has worked in various capacities across the country in the fields of Assessment, Investigation, TDS, Administration and Training. He has been on deputation with the Directorate General of Shipping as Deputy Director General of Shipping and with SEBI as Chief General Manager (Investigation & Surveillance).

He has handled various sensitive investigation cases, including IPO scam and penny stock manipulation cases and was instrumental in setting up the first Airport Intelligence Unit of the Income tax Department and Integrated Market Surveillance Systems project (IMSS) of SEBI.

He has also been the Additional Director General at NADT, Nagpur training newly recruited IRS Officers, the release stated.

BWSSB to hold water adalat in 10 sub-divisions tomorrow

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The BWSSB will hold water adalat on Thursday between 9.30 a.m. and 11 a.m. in West 1-1, South West-2, South East-1, South 1-1, East 2-1, East 1-1, North 2-3, South West1-1, North West-1, and North West 2-1 sub-divisions.

It is being held to settle the grievances connected to water billing, delay in providing water supply and sanitary connections, and other related issues.

APPOINTMENT

India International University Of Legal Education & Research, Goa
(An Initiative of Bar Council Of India Trust – PEARL FIRST)

NOTIFICATION
FACULTY POSITIONS/VACANCIES

India International University of Legal Education and Research, Goa invites applications for

- **Faculty Positions of Professors (Law)**
- **Associate Professors (Law)**
- **Assistant Professor (Law), Social Science and Management subjects.**

The qualifications, eligibility, experience and terms & conditions of appointment for faculty positions will be as per UGC Regulations and BCI Rules. Applications for contractual position of Academic Fellows are also invited. For details, visit University website: **www.iiuler.com.**
Application should be submitted only through email on **info@iiuler.com** latest by **20th August, 2022.**

Joint Director(Admn.)

K. K. Wagh Education Society
Hirabai Haridas Vidyanagari, Amrutdham, Panchvati, Nashik-3 (Maharashtra)

WANTED

A) Applications are invited for the posts of **"Professors, Associate Professors & Assistant Professors"** in various branches & **"Registrar"** for **K.K.Wagh Institute of Engineering Education and Research, Nashik** (an Autonomous Institute from the Academic Year 2022-2023). The detailed advertisement is available on institute website **http://engg.kkwagh.edu.in/career**
Qualified and eligible candidates shall apply with required documents by Email on **disp-engg@kkwagh.edu.in** within 15days from the date of publication of this advertisement.

B) Applications are invited for the posts of **"Principal, Professors, Associate Professors"** in **K.K.Wagh College of Pharmacy, Nashik.** The detailed advertisement is available on institute website **http://pharmacy.kkwagh.edu.in/home/job**
Qualified and eligible candidates shall apply with required documents by Email on **disp-bpharmacy@kkwagh.edu.in** within 15days from the date of publication of this advertisement.

Advt. No. : 123/2022 dtd. 28/07/2022 (Prof. K.S.Bandi) Secretary

Notice Inviting Expression of Interest
(RIL/E&P/EOI/2022/02)
(Under International Competitive Bidding)
for
For Block No. KG-DWN-98/3 (KG-D6)

Reliance is India's largest private sector company, with a consolidated revenue of ₹ 792,756 crore ($104.6 billion), cash profit of ₹ 110,778 crore ($14.6 billion), and net profit of ₹ 67,845 crore ($9.0 billion) for the year ended March 31, 2022. Reliance's activities span hydrocarbon exploration and production, petroleum refining and marketing, petrochemicals, retail and digital services. Reliance is the top-ranked company from India to feature in Fortune's Global 500 list of "World's Largest Companies".

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), as Operator, on behalf of itself & its co-venturer BP Exploration (Alpha) Limited invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from reputed and experienced Contractors/ Vendors for following categories, for Deep-water Block No. KG-DWN-98/3 (KG-D6) in East coast of India:

Category Number	Category Description
OAM/KGD6/2022/1	Equipment, Materials & Services (incl. Administrative related services) for Operation and Maintenance of Onshore & Offshore facilities including FPSO
DEV/KGD6/2022/2	Design, Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Operations & Maintenance of Battery Energy Storage Solution (BESS) along with integration with existing system

Interested Contractors/Vendors are requested to visit our website **www.ril.com** for further details on the above and submit their EOI through e-mail on **deveoiresponse.eandp@ril.com, on or before 24 August 2022**. For documents size beyond 10 MB, Contractors/ Vendors should request RIL through e-mail to provide FTP link for uploading EOI documents. Subject of the mail should mention **"RIL/E&P/EOI/2022/02"** along with category number.

Address for Communication
Chief – Supply Chain Management,
Reliance Industries Limited, Petroleum Business (E&P),
Reliance Corporate Park (RCP),
Building No 11, 'A' Wing, Second Floor,
Thane-Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai - 400 701, India.
Email: deveoiresponse.eandp@ril.com
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GENERAL

TNPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED

TNPL, a well known Paper and Paper Board Manufacturing Company having its manufacturing facility at Kagithapuram, Karur District and also at Mondipatti, Trichy District with a turnover of around ₹ 4000 plus Crores requires the following personnel for its Corporate Office at Chennai and Paper Mill (TNPL Unit-I) at Kagithapuram, Karur District, Tamil Nadu :-

Sl. No.	Name of the post	No. of posts	Reservation
1.	General Manager (Information Technology) / Deputy General Manager (Information Technology)	1	MBC/DNC-1
2.	Deputy General Manager (Finance)	1	BC (other than BC Muslims)-1
3.	Company Secretary (Assistant General Manager cadre)	1	GT-1

For details relating to age, qualification, experience, etc. please visit TNPL's website: **www.tnpl.com/careers.** Bio-data format is available in our website.
Candidates who conform to the job requirements as given in the website may apply in the prescribed format by post in strict confidence superscribing the name of the post (both in Bio-data and top of the Envelope) within 15 days from the date of release of this advertisement to:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (OPERATIONS)
TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
NO. 67, MOUNT ROAD, GUINDY, CHENNAI – 600 032, TAMIL NADU

giving full details of age, qualification with year of passing, experience, community, salary drawn and position being held along with copies of testimonials towards proof for the same.
Applicants should enclose documentary proof for Date of Birth, Community, Educational Qualifications, Class & Percentage of Marks, Experience, Salary drawn, etc., along with the Bio-data form. Bio-data form with insufficient documentary proof will be summarily rejected.
DIPR/792/Display/2022 www.tnpl.com

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GENERAL

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GENERAL

Indian Institute of Technology Madras
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Advertisement No. IITM/R/2/2022 dated: 03.08.2022
Indian Institute of Technology Madras invites **online application** for the position of **Deputy Registrar** at the Pay Matrix Level 12. Number of Vacancies - 4 (UR-2, SC-1, ST-1) including one ST backlog vacancy.
Eligibility criteria, age, qualification and experience, instructions to the candidates and other details are available in the IIT Madras Recruitment Portal @ **https://recruit.iitm.ac.in.** Candidates with requisite qualification and experience may apply online only.
Closing date for applying online:
02.09.2022 @ 5.30 p.m. REGISTRAR

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COMMON RECRUITMENT PROCESS FOR RECRUITMENT OF PROBATIONARY OFFICERS/ MANAGEMENT TRAINEES IN PARTICIPATING BANKS (CRP PO/MT-XII for Vacancies of 2023-24)
The online examination (Preliminary and Main) for the next Common Recruitment Process for selection of personnel for Probationary Officer/ Management Trainee posts, in the Participating Banks is tentatively scheduled in October 2022 / November 2022.
The tentative schedule of events is as follows:

Activity	Tentative Dates
On-line registration including Edit/Modification of Application by candidates	02.08.2022 to 22.08.2022
Payment of Application Fees/Intimation Charges (Online)	02.08.2022 to 22.08.2022
Download of call letters for Pre-Exam Training*	September/ October 2022
Conduct of Pre-Exam Training*	September/ October 2022
Download of call letters for Online examination - Preliminary	October 2022
Online Examination - Preliminary	October 2022
Result of Online exam - Preliminary	November 2022
Download of Call letter for Online exam - Main	November 2022
Online Examination – Main	November 2022
Declaration of Result – Main	December 2022
Download of call letters for interview	January/ February 2023
Conduct of interview	January/ February 2023
Provisional Allotment	April 2023

* In case it is possible and safe to hold PET
Candidates are advised to regularly keep in touch with the authorised IBPS website www.ibps.in for details and updates.
Before registering online candidates are advised to read the detailed notification carefully and follow the instructions mentioned therein.
Mumbai
Date: 02.08.2022 Director

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, DHARWAD

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No.EO/KM FOOD /2022-23 Date: 01.08.2022

ಇ-ಹರಾಜುಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರದ ಸೂಚನೆ (ದ್ವಿತೀಯ ಕರೆ)

ಕೃಷಿ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಧಾರವಾಡದಲ್ಲಿ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಜರುಗಲಿರುವ ಕೃಷಿಮೇಳ – 2022 ರ ಆತಿಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಆಹಾರ ಸೂರೈಕೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಆರ್ಹ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಗಳಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು ಮುದ್ರ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವೇಳಾ ಪಟ್ಟಿ

1	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	10.08.2022	Up to	16.00 Hrs
2	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಹಾಗೂ ವೇಳೆ	11.08.2022	@	16.30 Hrs

ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು e-procurement portal ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಂತೆ http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in online ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಚೇರಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 0836–2214216/332 ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಸೂಚನೆ: ಟೆಂಡರಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಹಾಲಾಖಲ್ಲೆ ಇ-ಹೊಕ್ಕೂರುಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಮಿಸುವ ವಿದ್ಯುಪಡಿಗಳು / ಮಾರ್ಪಾಡುಗಳನ್ನು ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಗಮನಿಸಬೇಕು.

Sd/- Estate Officer

DIPR/DWD/421/2022-23/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19. NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.

Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

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K-tech | KSWDC | STARTUP KARNATAKA

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS) in association with Karnataka State Women Development Corporation (KSWDC) invites applications for "Vriddhi" Scheme from women entrepreneurs who have been selected as Winners or Runners Up under Idea2PoC Calls / Elevate (2016-2021)/ Amrita Start ups 2021.

The women start ups selected under this scheme will be provided loan assistance of INR **5-10 lakhs** at annual **4%** interest rate, to be repaid in 60 instalments.

For detailed information, eligibility criteria and to apply, please visit:

www.missionstartupkarnataka.org/vriddhi-scheme?en.

The deadline for submission of application is on or before 26/08/2022, 5:00 PM.

Managing Director
KARNATAKA INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY (KITS)
Department of Electronics, IT, BT and S&T, Government of Karnataka
BMTC Central Offices Building, TTMC 'B' Block, 4th Floor, Shanthinagar, KH Road, Bangalore-560027. India
Phone : 080-2223-1006 / 8, E-mail: elevatewomen22@gmail.com

DIPR/CP/1624/AKAR/22-23

COVID-19 - DON'T SPREAD RUMOURS. ACT RESPONSIBLY. AVOID INFECTION-NOT THE INFECTED.

Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Social Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

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KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.:CEE/TZB/SEE(O)/AE-1/2022-23/9280-83 Dated: 01.08.2022

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Only through E-Procurement Mode)

KPTCL invites bid against the following works on COMBINED PACKAGE vide enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/TR/BZ/TK-231:

a. Replacement of 1x100MVA, 220/66/11kV Power Transformer by 1x150MVA, 220/66/11kv Power Transformer at 220/66/11kV Dabaspet substation in Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District on **Partial Turnkey Basis** including supply of all materials (**excluding Power Transformer**)/ equipment and erection (including Civil works) of all materials/equipments, testing and commissioning on **Partial Turnkey Basis.**

b. Transportation of released good 1x100MVA, 220/66kV Power Transformer from 220/66kV Dabaspet to 220/66/11kV Bidadi sub-station.

c. Replacement of failed 1x100MVA, 220/66kV Power Transformer by released good 100MVA, 220/66kV Power Transformer at **220/66/11kV Bidadi** sub-station in Ramanagara Taluk & District., on **Partial Turnkey Basis** including supply of all materials (**excluding Power Transformer**) equipment and erection (including Civil works) of all materials/equipments, testing and commissioning on **Partial Turnkey Basis.**

The Bids will be received through Electronic tender mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "e-Procurement-KPTCL" or to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **05.08.2022.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/-, Chief Engineer, Electy., Transmission Zone, KPTCL, Ananda Rao Circle, Bengaluru-560 009.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT DIVISION, BELAGAVI.
PH NO.0831-2463850 / FAX NO.0831-2423008

No.EE /MI&GWDDD/BGM/TND/AE-1/2022-23/2437 Date:01-08-2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (KW-3 & 4)

As per KTTP Act-2000 and recent Amendments the Executive Engineer Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Department Division Belagavi has invited the item rate TENDER through E-Procurement Portal System (https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in). Pertaining to Gokak Sub Divisions Savadatti & Gokak Talukas. Total 11 Nos. of work under 4702/2021-22 & 2022-23 Head. Estimate Amount is Lowest Rs.90.00Lakhs and Highest Rs.267.00 Lakhs. The contractor should quote rates without adding GST except for KEB items of LIS work. The GST amount will be paid separately. In case of extension period of work, if GST rates are increased then the contractor himself should pay the increased GST amount. The work details can be obtained from 03-08-2022 to 12-08-2022 upto 16.00 hrs.

For Gokak Taluka works: As per Govt. letter No. MID/137/MISU/2022, Bengaluru, Dtd:17-02-2022 the cost of the work should not exceed the grant provided for this work, hence, contractor shall note that, the work will not be awarded over the estimated amount of this work.

Note:The intending bidder should visit the concerned works spot and get familiar with the nature of work. Certificate has to be obtained from the concerned Assistant Executive Engineer about visiting the above works spot and it should be uploaded in the tender.

1. Pre bid meeting date:10-08-2022 at Morning 11.00 AM, 2. Tender Receipt Last Date:12-08-2022 Evening 4.00 PM, 3. Tender Opening Date:16-08-2022 Morning 11.00 AM (if possible), 4. For Tender Details office address:Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Department Division Belagavi, 5. Web Site Address:wwe.e-proc.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-Executive Engineer, M.I & GWDD Division, Belagavi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-045/MCA/2022-23

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that my client is proposed to purchase the property bearing Site No.416, having BDA Katha PID No. 6000053542, carved out of Converted Sy. No. 9 and 40 of Doddabele Village, KengeriHobli, Bangalore South Taluk the Layout was approved by Bengaluru Development Authority vide its committee Resolution No.17/2012 dated 25/02/2012 has issued its work order PRL-03/11-12/5202/2012-13 dated 18/12/2012 and approved Plan Released, vide Sites release order PRL-03/11-12/60/2016-17 dated 10/04/2017 & BDA/EM/EQ-1/TA-2/T-368/2017-18 dated 09-11-2017, said layout known as "THE GREEN VALLEY ADDRESS" (the BDA approval is as "The Riverside") and said Site Measuring

East To West	North To South	
52.42	44.09	2311.20
55.56	6.29	349.60
11.98/2	44.78	268.23
24.13	0.69/2	8.32
21.20	1.37/2	14.52
7.09	1.37	9.71
Irregular shape		21.74
Irregular shape		26.03
In all Measuring		3009.35 Sq. Mtrs

And bounded on : East by : 9 Mtrs Road, West by :12 Mtrs RMP 2015 Road, North by : Private Property, South by : 9 Mtrs Road, from it's present Owners Smt. P.SARASWATHI, Sri.P.SATHYA SAI. Sri. P.S. SHANTHA RAM. Smt. T.V.SAVITHRI, Sri.P.JAGANNATH PREM, Smt. J. PADMARANJANI. Smt. T. S. RAMADEVI , Smt. V.S. SUVARCHALA , Smt. D. SRIMAHALAKSHMI ,Sri. P. S.VENKATACHALAPATHY, Sri. P. S.V. ANANTHANARAYANA, Sri. NYAPATI VENKATA KRISHNA, Sri. MADHAV NYAPATHI SESHU, Sri.E. MOHAN RAJU. Sri.LAKAPPA,

Represented by their registered Power of Attorney holder

M/S. SLS DEVELOPERS Proprietorship having its office at Flat No. 401, 4th Floor, Sherwood Apartments, 4th 'A' Cross, Kaggadasapura, CV Raman Nagar post, Bangalore – 560 093,PAN : AENPP3033R

Represented by its Proprietor Mr. P. SHEKAR REDDY

Any persons having any claim or interest in or to the said property or any part thereof through sale, exchange, mortgage, gift, trust, inheritance, bequest, possession, lease, lien, easement or otherwise is/are required to forward their claim to the said property, to the undersigned, along with relevant supporting documents thereof, within 15(Fifteen) days from this date.

In the absence of any claims within the above said period, it shall be deemed that there are no such claims or that if there are any claims, and they have not been made, it shall be deemed to have been waived and a valid and binding conveyance will be executed in my client's favour without any further reference in this regard.

MUNISHAMI REDDY. G. R - Advocate, SHREE G LAW SERVICES
Office at No.226/87, 1st Floor, Opp BDA Park, Bhuvaneshwarinagar, BSK III Stage, Bengaluru-560 085. 9880802544, 9844898679, 9740155591

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MINOR IRRIGATION AND GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, DIVISION DHARWAD

SECTION 1: INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT) (One & Two Cover System), KW-2, 3 & 4

Reg : This office tender Notification No. 17/2022-23
Dated : 01.08.2022

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Division, Dharwad, Under **Gadag** Sub Division invites tenders for total of **08** Works in Standard Bid Document KW-2, 3 & 4 through e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka, viz., **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** from eligible contractors for the work under Head of Account: **4702-APB (Total of 07 main works); 4702-MOT (Total of 1 main work);** Maximum Amount put to tender: Rs. **442.39** Lakhs, Maximum E.M.D amount Rs. **6.63** Lakhs and Minimum Amount put to tender: Rs. **43.29** Lakhs, Minimum E.M.D amount Rs. **0.77** Lakhs. Period of downloading tender documents from e-procurement portal: From **06/08/2022** to **20/08/2022** upto17:30 hrs. And any other Corrigendum/Addendum and Postponement of Notification, if any will be published only through **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** Other details may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days. Details published on the e-procurement website @ **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** are final.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (I/C)
DIPR/Gadag/MCA/225/2022-23 **M.I. & G. W. D. Division, Dharwad**

Government of Karnataka
FOOD, CIVIL SUPPLIES & CONSUMER AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

No.8, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru.

No.: FCSCA/AD-20/RETE/02/2021(Part-2) Date: 03.08.2022

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Interested eligible bidders are invited to participate in two Envelope System Transportation Tender through e-procurement portal to distribute foodgrain in all **14 district 22 taluks.** Transportation of foodgrains, by loading foodgrain from TAPCMS/KFCSC/Other Retail godowns to Fair Price Shops to unloading foodgrains through road ways for 2 years from date of issue of memorandum (order) by Commissioner, Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs.

Date of Notification: **03.08.2022.** Pre-bid Meeting: **06.08.2022, 11.30 am.** Last date and time for Receipt of Tenders (only through e-procurement portal): **12.08.2022, 5.30 pm.** Technical Bid opening date and time (Respected Deputy Commissioner at Districts): **16.08.2022, 11.00 am.** Financial Bid opening date and time (At Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, Commissioner Office): **18.08.2022, 11.00 am.**

Interested bidders can apply for the above said tender by submitting the required documents through e-procurement website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** from **date: 03.08.2022 to 12.08.2022, 5.30 pm**. Payment of EMD of the **Rs. 2 lakh** to be made through e-procurement platform along with necessary processing fees. Tender accepting authority reserve Rights to cancel tender and subject it to scrutiny at any stage without giving any reason. Further details can be obtained from Tender Document.

Sd/- Commissioner, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, Bengaluru.

DIPR/DD-C.P/1623/MCA/2022-23

Government of Karnataka
FOOD, CIVIL SUPPLIES & CONSUMER AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

No.8, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru.

No.: FCSCA/AD-20/WT/02/2021(Part-2) Date: 03.08.2022

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Interested eligible bidders are invited to participate in two Envelope System Transportation Tender through e-procurement portal to distribute foodgrain in all **39 Taluks.** Transportation of foodgrains, by loading foodgrain from FCI godown to unloading foodgrains at TAPCMS/KFCSC/Other Wholesale godowns through road ways for 2 years from date of issue of memorandum (order) by Commissioner, Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs.

Date of Notification: **03.08.2022.** Pre-bid Meeting: **06.08.2022, 11.30 am.** Last date and time for Receipt of Tenders (only through e-procurement portal): **12.08.2022, 5.30 pm.** Technical Bid opening date and time (Respected Deputy Commissioner at Districts): **16.08.2022, 11.00 am.** Financial Bid opening date and time (At Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, Commissioner Office): **18.08.2022, 11.00 am.**

Interested bidders can apply for the above said tender by submitting the required documents through e-procurement website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** from **date: 03.08.2022 to 12.08.2022, 5.30 pm**. Payment of EMD of the **Rs. 4 lakh** to be made through e-procurement platform along with necessary processing fees. Tender accepting authority reserve Rights to cancel tender and subject it to scrutiny at any stage without giving any reason. Further details can be obtained from Tender Document.

Sd/- Commissioner, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, Bengaluru.

DIPR/DD-C.P/1622/MCA/2022-23

Karnataka Science and Technology Promotion Society

Dept. of Electronics, IT, Bt and Science and Technology, GoK
Science Gallery Bengaluru, National Centre for Biological Sciences, GKVK Campus, Bellary Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560065, India. E-mail: pmc.sgb@dbtkc.in

Date: 01.08.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-Procurement Only)

Karnataka Science and Technology Promotion Society (KSTePS), Bengaluru invites bids on behalf of Science Gallery Bengaluru (SGB) as per details given below:

Indent No.: SGB/ED/Tender/2022-23/01 Dt.: 01.08.2022.

Particulars: Bid for the "Design, Fabrication, Supply installation, Testing & Handover of Fixed Ceiling Suspension grid systems" for Science Gallery Bengaluru building through KSTePS, Dept. of Electronics, Information Technology, Bio-Technology and Science & Technology, GoK, Bengaluru Karnataka.

The Bids will be received through **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in,** tendering mode only. Details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in/eportal.** Any details required in this regard can also be obtained from the Site Office of SGB, IVRI Campus, Hebbal Bangalore during Office hours.

1. **Last date for submission of completed tender documents: 17.08.2022 at 16:00 hours**
2. **Tentative Opening of completed tender documents received at KSTePS: 19.08.2022 at 16:30 hours**

Note: Any changes in tender conditions and calendar of events will be updated in E-procurement portal only.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General public are hereby notified that my clients are intending to purchase the below mentioned property from Smt. Lakshmi, W/o. Sri. Keshva Reddy, aged about 60 years, residing at No. 100/4, 8th Cross, Domalur, Bengaluru 560071 and her family members. If any body has right, title and interest over the below said property may object within Seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice along with relevant documents in writing to the below said Advocate.

If nobody objects, it is clear that the below said property is free from all encumbrance and my clients shall proceed to purchase the property.

Schedule Property

All that piece and parcel of property bearing Vacant Site No. 2, formed in Converted Survey No. 96/7, situated at Bellandur Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk , Bengaluru, Converted vide No. BDS ALN (E)VB.SR:474/2003-04, by the Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru dated 03-03-2004, measuring East to West 54.5 feet and North to South 36.8 Feet, totally measuring 2003 Square feet together with all rights appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded as follows:-

East by: Property belonging to Gopalappa, **West by:** ROAD

North by: Remaining 6221sq.ft of the same property belonging to Smt. Lakshmi

South by: Remaining 1998 sq.ft of the same property belonging to Smt. Lakshmi

Sd/-
K.P. Chandrashekar Reddy, Advocate, No. 39/2, 2nd Floor, ASVNV Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru 560102. Phone:- 9844089956
E-mail: kpcradvocate@yahoo.co.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby notified that my client Mrs. K. Ramadevi D/o. Mr. T. Markandeya Naidu, No. 3, 2nd "A" Main, Nataraja Layout, 7th Phase, J.P. Nagar, Bangalore – 560 078, do hereby put on notice that a Suit for Declaration and Partition of the Commercial Building known as 'AURIC' Hotel, constructed on Schedule Property to the extent of 35% of undivided share of right, title and interest which is claimed by my client pending before the Additional City Civil Judge in O.S No. 1710/ 2020 (CCH No.14), Bangalore.

The General Public and the financial institutions are hereby cautioned that any transaction with M/s. PNB REALTY LIMITED which will affect the rights of my client in the schedule property will be subject to the claims of my client, hence the General Public and financial institutions are forewarned in dealing with M/s. PNB REALTY LIMITED.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

35% of undivided share of right, title and interest in all that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Corporation No.598 (BDA Site No.598, situated at Samaki Extension, 6th Phase, Bangalore), Commercial Building known as 'AURIC' Hotel, situated at 15th Cross Road, 6th Phase, J.P. Nagar, Bangalore, Corporation Ward No. 57, within the revenue administrative jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike and including all rights, privileges and appurtenances there to and the entire site measuring :

East to West : 22.83 Meters
North to South : 27.43 Meters
Total Area : 626.23 Square Meters (6,738.23 Square Feet)

35% of undivided share of right, title and interest out of 6,738.23 Square Feet gifted to the DONEE : 2,358.38 Square Feet
& the entire property is bounded as follows:
East by : Site No. 597,
West by : Road, North by : Road,
South by: Site Nos. 584 and 585

Bangalore
Date : 03.08.2022

AJAY KUMAR. N,
Advocate,
No.81/c, 5 th Main,
Malleshwaram,
Bangalore – 560 055

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Item No.1 of the Schedule property from its Owner: **M/S.GAJANANDA SAW MILL AND WOOD WORKS,** having its office at: No.13, NTY Layout, Mysore Road, Bangalore – 560 026 and Item No.2 of the Schedule property from its Owner: **SRI.NARAYAN D PATEL alias NARAN DHANJI PATEL,** S/o Sri.Dhanji Karamsi Patel, residing at: No.1164/51, 11th Main Road, RPC Layout, Hampinagar, Bangalore North, Bangalore – 560 104.

Apart from the said Owners, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title and or interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule Property by the aforesaid Owners, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within 14days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

Item No.1 property: All that piece and parcel of the Industrial property bearing Municipal No.13/A (old No.13), having PID No.41-3-13/A measuring East to West-50 ft and North to South on the Eastern side 222 ft and on the Western side 224 ft. in all measuring 11,150 Sq.ft., together with a shed thereon, situated at New Timber Yard Layout, Bangalore, within the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Ward No.157 – Gaali Anjaneyaswamy Temple & bounded on :

East by : Property bearing Site No.13/B (Old No.13);
West by : Property bearing Site No.14/2 (Old No.14);
North by : Property bearing Site No.4;
South by : Road

Item No.2 property: All that piece and parcel of the Industrial property bearing Municipal No.14/2, having PID No.41-3-14/2 measuring East to West-20 ft and North to South on the Eastern side 227 ft and on the Western side226¼ ft, in all measuring 4533 Sq.ft., situated at New Timber Yard Layout, Bangalore, within the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Ward No.157 – Gaali Anjaneyaswamy Temple and bounded on:

East by : Property bearing Site No.13/A;
West by : Property bearing Site No.14/1;
North by : Property bearing Site Nos.2 and 3;
South by : Road

Sd/- Goutam Chand S.F
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560 004.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
(Water Resource Department)
Office of the, Executive Engineer, UKP,Rehabilitation Divn.No.4,Bilagi, Camp:Navanagar-Bagalkote.

No.UKP/Reh.Dn.4/PB-2/2022-23/666 Date: 01-08-2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT)

As per the tender procedure of KTTP Act, tenders are invited from eligible contractors in Two cover system pertaining to Indent No. 896 (Rs. 440.39 lakhs) The last date for submission of bid through e-procurement portal is 01-09-2022 up to 17.30pm. Tender conditions & other details can be procured in e-procurement portal www.eproc.karnataka govt.in and from this office in working hours.

Sd/-(S.L.Chinnannavar)
Executive Engineer, UKP, Reh.Divn.No.4
Bilagi, Camp: Navanagar-Bagalkote.

DIPR/BSK/RO-NO-531/WCA/2022-23

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
(RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

No. KPCL/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT 12508/CALL-3 Dated: 30.07.2022

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(Two Cover System) (Through e-Procurement Portal only)

Tenders are invited through e-procurement portal from agencies for the work of **Supply, Fabrication & Replacement of GI intake louvers and SS bird screen mesh at Unit-1&2 Air Washer System** from reputed firms/ organization/ contractors. Date of Receipt of tenders: **08.08.2022 upto 16.00 Hrs.** All relevant details are available in the e-portal website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** Further details can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer (LT)-1,** KPCL, RTPS, Shaktinagar - 584170, Raichur Dist. Karnataka. Mobile: 94495 96537, E-mail: eelt1rtpskpcl@karnataka.gov.in ; eelt1rtps@gmail.com

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Government of Karnataka
PUBLIC WORKS, PORTS AND INLAND WATER TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, CHITRADURGA

No.EE:PWD:CTA:AE-1:Tender-41:2022-23: Dated: 29.07.2022

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from registered Contractors in KPWD for the following work through e-Procurement Portal as per standard tender documents rules.

Name of work: Two cover System: Head of Account 5054-04-337-0-01-154 MDR Improvements: 1) Improvements Road from Nagappanahalli Gate (KK Road) to Andra boarder via P.Mahadevapura Km 0.00 to 6.50 Km in Challakere Taluk. (WI.154431). Estimate Coast: 500.00 Lakhs.

Sl. No. 1 to 3 Tenders dates are as mentioned below: Late Date & time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications: 16.08.2022 Time 17:30. Last Date & time for receipt of tenders: 17.08.2022 Time 16:00. Date & time for opening of Technical Bid: 18.08.2022 Time 16:01. Date & time for opening of Financial Bid: 20.08.2022 Time 11:00.

Further details can be obtained from this office and H.P. Company helpline Numbers 080-25501216 and 080-25501227.

RO No. 413: DIPR/CTA/MCA/2022-23 **Sd/- Executive Engineer**

DISTRICT URBAN DEVELOPMENT CELL, OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, MYSURU DISTRICT, MYSURU.

Ph: 0821-2424070, Email:dudc_mys@yahoo.co.in

No.Mun(4) AmruthaNagarothana Phase-4/Tender/CR-31/2022-23 Date : 30.07.2022

TENDER PUBLICATION (Through e-Procurement Portal)

As per KTPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000 tenders are invited under Amrutha Nagarothana (Municipality) Phase-4 Scheme. Eligible contractors may apply through e-Procurement Portal www.eprocurement.karnataka.gov.in

(Rs.in Lakhs)

Sl No	Name of Work &Indent Number	Amount put to Tender	E.M.D.
1)	Construction of road and Drain Works in Nanjangud CMC limits. DMA/2022-23/OW/Work_Indent/133724	777.50	11.70
2)	Construction of road and Drain Works in K R Nagar TMC limits. DMA/2022-23/OW/Work_Indent/133173	553.80	8.31
3)	Construction of road and Drain Works in T NarsipuraTMC limits. DMA/2022-23/OW/ Work_Indent/134779	379.15	5.69
4)	Construction of road and Drain Works in H D Kote TMC limits DMA/2022-23/OW/Work_Indent/134726	394.34	5.92

1. Prebid Meeting Date: **17.08.2022 3.30 PM. 2.** Last date of tender submission: **30.08.2022 Upto 5.00 PM. 3.** Date of opening of Technical Bid: **01.09.2022 11.00 AM.**

Any changes in the tender schedule will be notified through e-Procurement Portal only. For details contact District Urban Development Cell, Mysuru DC Office new building Bannuru Road Mysuru.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, District Urban Development Cell, Mysuru District, Mysuru.

DIPR/MYS/KAV/TA/319/2022-23

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED

(A GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA ENTERPRISE)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KPCC Div. No. 2, Bhalki.

No EE/KNNL/KPC D-NO.2/BHALKI/TS-5/Quot/2022-23/ 493 Date :27.07.2022

QUOTATION FOR CONSULTANCY

Sealed quotation is called from the Reputed Registered Consultants for "Consultancy services for Detailed Survey, Investigation Preparation of Design, Drawings, Estimates, Package Estimates,(DPR) DTP and Necessary Land Acquisition Proposals for Construction of Impounding Reservoirs and other allied works near Khandal and Ghat Boral villages of Basavakalyan Taluk , Bidar District". invited so as to reach this office of Executive Engineer, KNNL, KPCC Div. No. 2, Bhalki., on or before 04-08-2022.

The consultant/bidders are requested to quote their unit job rate for the following items in the below prescribed format.

1. The quotation rates shall be incluice of GST + other taxes. 2. The rates should be quoted by inspecting the location of site work. 3. The rate salary considered for exclusively prepration of consultancy estimates.

Description-1) **Collection of all necessary data such as preliminary report**, relevant toposheets of the area, current schedule of rates, nearest GTS bench mark etc, Reconnaissance survey of the proposed locations of impounding reservoirs, for identifying the condition of infrastructures, habitations,**Detailed survey of proposed impounding reservoir** carrying out block level survey of 10 m x 10 m grid and plotting contours with respect to Bench Mark pertaining to GTS, of the proposed impounding reservoir locations using Drone / Total station based on the control points established using DGPS and levelling instrument, Strip survey along the proposed Earthen bund alignment. Cross section along the alignment will be carried out at 25 m centre to centre. Levels on the cross section will be at 5.0 m intervals.complete as directed by Engineer-in-Charge. Unit-Job. Qty-1.

2) Detailed geotechnical investigation & Conducting necessary laboratory tests of proposed impounding reservoir required number of boreholes at various locations along the alignment up to 10.00 m depth or 3.00 m in hard rock whichever is met earlier. Performing standard penetration tests as per IS:2131 at every 1.50 m intervals when there is no cohesive soil ar at every 3.00 m when there is no cohesive soil, and at change of strata, collection of water samples and disturbed soil samples, observations such as ground water, etc., collection of undisturbed soil samples at every 3.00 m intervals and at change of strata, transportation of all the collected samples to the laboratary and backfilling the boreholes using the excavated soil on completion of the same.complete as directed by Engineer-in-Charge. **Unit-Job. Qty-1.**

3) **Preparation of Detailed Project Report,capacity table, preparation of conceptual design report and layout, hydraulic and structural design, estimate and drawings for Impounding Reservoir** consisting of detailed designs of earthen embankment and identification of reaches etc., as per latest BIS codes, drainage arrangements in the earthen bund, details of cut off trench, under seepage control measures as per latest BIS codes, bill of quantities and technical specifications, The above said job work shall include transportation of all men and material, boarding, lodging, etc., complete, including all taxes and duties, complete as directed by Engineer-in-Charge. **Unit-Job. Qty-1.**

4) **Preparation of Package Estimate and Bid Document for implementation of the scheme** comprising,Construction of Impounding Reservoirs and other allied works near Khandal & Ghat Boral villages of Basavakalyan Taluk , Bidar District on lump sum Turn-key basis including O & M of the scheme for 5 years from the date of commissioning including submitting 8 No's of copies and 2 soft copies and getting clearance from TSC and ERC successfully etc., complete as per specifications and directions of the Engineer - in - charge. **Unit-Job. Qty-1**

DIPR/Bidar/168/MC&A/2022-23

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KNNL, KPCC Div. No. 2, Bhalki.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 03
RISE 06:06 SET 18:46
RISE 10:28 SET 22:42

THURSDAY, AUG. 04
RISE 06:06 SET 18:46
RISE 11:19 SET 23:22

FRIDAY, AUG. 05
RISE 06:06 SET 18:45
RISE 12:12 SET 00:00

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	24
Mysuru	30	22
Bengaluru	31	20

Bengaluru Today
27°C A comfortable but humid weather to prevail during the day. Few spells of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
25°C The weather will remain comfortable but humid. Night will be pleasant. Intermittent spells of moderate rain or thundershower will continue.

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Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) which includes explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (August 3, Wednesday), the following explainers are available:

- **Explainer |** The government package to revive BSNL fortunes bit.ly/bsnlpack
- **Keyword |** Tokenism bit.ly/keytoken
- **Explainer |** Has bail under PMLA become near-impossible? bit.ly/pmlabail

Online exclusives

- **Watch |** Who can get bail in India? bit.ly/3QaE9Dw
- Arivu, Dhee, and the 'Enjoy Enjaami' controversy explained bit.ly/3QauABd
- *You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.*

'Praveen and Fazil were random targets in planned attack'

Probe reveals that following the death of Masood in Bellare on July 21, assailants prepared a list of potential targets which included Praveen

RAGHAVA M.
MANGALURU

DAKSHINA KANNADA MURDERS

The ongoing investigation by the police into the murders of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha activist Praveen Nettaru and 22-year-old Mohammed Fazil has revealed that the two were random targets of assailants, who have alleged links with fundamentalist organisations.

The Dakshina Kannada police have arrested four persons in connection with the murder of Praveen Nettaru on July 26, while Mangaluru City police have arrested seven persons in connection with murder of Fazil on July 28.

The investigation by the Dakshina Kannada police has revealed that following the death of 18-year-old Masood in Bellare on July 21, assailants, with links to a fundamentalist organisation, prepared a list of potential targets which included Praveen.

After failing to find the other persons easily, the assailants targeted Praveen, who was hacked to death on July 26 outside his chicken shop in Bellare in Dakshina Kannada.

While Zakir, 29, and Shafiq, 27, were arrested on July 28 and two conspirators were arrested on August 2, the other accused, including the assailants, are still at large.

The Dakshina Kannada police is working with other police units and central investigation agencies to trace the accused. Similarly, Mohammed Fazil, too, was a random target of the assailants, the police said.

The Mangaluru City police said Fazil was among about six persons from the community that the assailants had planned to attack. They then zeroed in on Fazil and had planned to execute the attack on July 27, when the last rites of Praveen were performed.

However, as some assailants did not turn up on July 27, the killers executed their work the next day, on the night of July 28.

Fazil regularly donated blood and was also involved in social work. His activities had created an impression among assailants that Fazil was close to a community organization. This might have led assailants to target him, the police said.

Among the seven persons arrested in the case, Suhan Shetty has claimed to be a member of Bajrang Dal and also of Gou Raksha Dal. The city police said his claims are being verified.

The accused arrested in the Fazil murder case, in Mangaluru on Tuesday. • H.S. MANJUNATH

Two more held in Praveen murder case

Both hail from Pallimajalu in Bellare

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANGALURU

The Dakshina Kannada Police on Tuesday arrested two more people in connection with the murder of 32-year-old BJP Yuva Morcha activist Praveen Nettaru on July 26.

The police gave the names of the arrested men as Saddam and Haris, both hailing from Pallimajalu, Bellare.

On July 28, the Dakshina Kannada Police had arrested two men, 29-year-old Zakir of Savanoor and 27-year-old Shafiq of Bellare in connection with the murder.

Further investigation has led to the arrest of 32-year-old Saddam and 42-year-old Haris, Superintendent of Police Rishikesh Sonawane said. All the four are accused of hatching a conspiracy for the murder.

The investigating team, he said, has identified other conspirators and assailants in the case.

The suspects are absconding and a search is on for them, Mr. Sonawane said. The arrests come a day after the Dakshina Kannada Police secured a man from Bengaluru.

"We have secured a few people from different parts of the State and they are being questioned," Mr. Sonawane said.

'Chief Minister should apologise to State'

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Civil society group, Bahutva Karnataka, a coalition of several progressive organisations, came down heavily on statements and actions of Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, terming them "partisan" and a violation of the Constitution of India.

In a statement, Bahutva Karnataka alleged that the Chief Minister discriminated even in death by visiting the house of a BJP worker and ignoring those killed because of the hate his party fuelled. "There is no pretense of equality also anymore," the statement said.

The members demanded the Chief Minister to apologise to the State for the three murders and said that he must apologise for his statement calling for the Uttar Pradesh model and withdraw the same.

The forum said that Chief Minister's call for the Uttar Pradesh model is a call for encounters, and is an insult to the police, judiciary and the Constitution.

Collapse of law

Arguing that the recent deaths were a result of the collapse of rule of law under Mr. Bommai, the group said: "Karnataka is in a crisis today, a man-made crisis with Mr. Bommai and his ineffective council of Ministers responsible for the same. In Karnataka today, the rule of law has collapsed. The administration seems to exist only for the workers of a party".

"The Karnataka model was given to us by Basavanna and Kuvempu. We do not want a UP model or fake encounters. A government which fails to comply with its Constitutional Duty has no moral or ethical right to continue," the statement added.

FROM PAGE ONE

Rain fury: Eight die in State

The deceased have been identified as Laxminarayan Nayak (58), his daughter Laxmi Nayak (33), son Anantnarayan Nayak (32) and relative Praveen Balakrishna Nayak (20).

Deaths were reported from Vijayanagar and Ballari districts in rain-related incidents. Unchatti Bommappa (62), a farmer from G. Nagalapur village in Hospet taluk was washed away when he was crossing an overflowing stream. Krishnakumar (51), an employee of Sandur Manganese and Iron Ores Ltd, was washed away in a stream near Ankamanal village when he was attempting to cross it on his bike. On Monday night, two children were killed in a landslip at Parvatamukhi near Kukke Subrahmanya in Dakshina Kannada. Police gave their names as Shruthi (11), a class V student, and Jnanashree (6), a class II student. They were killed when a portion of a hill collapsed on their house.

The meteorological department has issued a red alert in Dakshina Kannada till August 5. Holiday has been declared for schools and colleges in Sullia and Kadaba taluks on August 3. Devotees have been advised not to visit Kukke Subrahmanya over the next two days owing to the rain situation. NDRF and SDRF teams have been deployed in coastal districts for undertaking rescue operations.

Between June 1 and August 2, as many as 11 districts received large excess rainfall, 11 districts received excess rainfall, while nine districts received normal rains, according to Manoj Rajan, Commissioner for Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority.

A woman being rescued at Shirur in Udupi district that received heavy rainfall on Tuesday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

CM review

In the wake of heavy downpour in different regions of Karnataka leading to extensive damage, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Tuesday held a videoconference with officials of 11 districts and instructed them to undertake rescue and relief operations.

In Bengaluru

In Bengaluru, a Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike official from the control room said that a tree was uprooted in Jayanagar T Block and Jeevan Bima Nagar in the city, but no casualties were reported.

"We have received complaints from K.R. Puram, Bommanahalli, HBR Layout, Ramamurthi Nagar and Hebbal, where water entered a few homes as drains overflowed," the official said.

According to Bengaluru Traffic Police, traffic snarls were reported in Outer Ring Road, Hebbal, Yelahanka, Tumakuru Road, Mysuru Road, Yeshwanthpur, Bannerghatta Road, Hosur road, Bellandur, HSR layout, and Kanakapura Road.

Fazil murder: Mangaluru police arrest six persons

On July 28 morning, Shetty and a few other accused persons left in the car to Karinja hills in Bantwal and returned to meet other assailants near the district court. In the evening, all six left in the car.

- The police termed as false reports that Fazil was a victim of internal differences among Muslim groups and that the murder was because of his affair with a girl.

Three rounds

They made three rounds of the garment shop where Fazil was standing. Shetty got out of the vehicle along with Mohan and Abhishek and hacked Fazil to death.

All six then left in the car to Inna near Karkala, where they abandoned it. They boarded another car and moved to different places. On Tuesday morning, they were apprehended by the police from a place on the outskirts of Udyavara.

Previous record

Mr. Kumar said Shetty is an accused in a murder and three other criminal cases, while Mohan, Giridhar and Abhishek are accused in two criminal cases each. Shrinivas is an accused in four criminal cases while Deekshit is an accused in three criminal cases. While most of the cases are registered in the city, one case is registered in Belthangady police station.

On the alleged links of the accused to fundamentalist organizations and the motive behind the attack, Mr. Kumar said it will all come out following further questioning of the arrested persons.

"We will book all those who have conspired in the murder and those who have harboured the accused."

Mr. Kumar ruled out reports that Fazil was a mistaken target of the assailants.

He also termed as false reports that Fazil was a victim of internal differences among Muslim groups and that the murder was because of his affair with a girl.

Flight struck by lightning

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A Hyderbad-bound flight was struck by lightning mid-air and returned to KIA on Tuesday. The AirAsia flight I5-1576 departed to Hyderabad around 7.30 a.m. and returned to Bengaluru 8.45 a.m.

There were 92 passengers onboard.

A spokesperson of the Air Asia said, "Post flight inspection revealed that the aircraft had encountered a lighting strike. Lightning strikes, although rare, do occur and aircraft are safeguarded against strikes which do not pose a risk."

IN BRIEF

Tiger remains elusive

MYSURU

The tiger that is suspected to have killed a farmer in Odeyarapura village abutting the Hediyala range of Bandipur National Park, is yet to be sighted or identified despite installation of 30 camera traps and combing of the area.

THE HINDU
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PUBLIC NOTICE

To the knowledge of the General Public that my client **Sri. Chandrashekarayya.** S/o Late. Ramayya, hereby informs that, the Original Registered Sale Deed of house property No.90, bearing khatha no.90, property measuring 50*28, at Thimmasandra Village, Madhure Hobli, Doddabellapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural is lost/misplaced while getting photocopy of the said document on 10.05.2022. My client has lodged a police complaint on 26.07.2022 at Doddabelavangala Police Station. Any person/s who is in possession of the aforesaid document may return the same to me or anyone having any sort of claim over the said property may lodge their objections in writing within 15 days from this day to the undersigned.

Sushanth V.A, Advocate
No.17, Vajarahalli, Nelamangala,
Bengaluru Rural District.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform that my client **Mrs. YASMEEN TAJ** W/o Azam Pasha & D/o Mrs. Shaheen Taj, resident of V.V. Badavane, Hoskote, B'lore Rural, has lost the Original Absolute Sale Deed dated 14-11-2017, Regd.on 15-11-2017, as No.HSK-1-06372-2017-18, Book-I, C.D.No.HSKD630, in the Office of Sub-Registrar, Hoskote, executed by H.B. Abdul Salam, Panchayath Khata, copies of old title documents, etc., in respect of Property bearing Municipal PID Khata No.20-7-59, Municipal Resolution No. (1) 3034/2632/150/127/1-A & (2) 3034/2632/150/ 121/1-B, situated in K.R. Road, Hoskote Town-562114, Bangalore Rural Dist., and she has lodged a complaint with Bengaluru Rural Police vide Lost Article Report No.0282943/2022, 02-08-2022. Any finder may kindly contact and return the same to the undersigned and will be suitably rewarded and if anyone has any claim/s over the said property may also lodge their claim/s with substantial documents.

T.M.SYED AFZAL AHMED (Advocate)
No.151/1-A, Lal Masjid Complex,
Jumma Masjid Road,Shivajinagar,
Bangalore-560 051,
M : 9845546676

Government of Jharkhand
Directorate of Food & Consumer Affairs
3rd Floor, JSFC Bhawan, Kadru, Ranchi -834002
DIRECTORATE OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND, RANCHI

Reverse e-Auction Procurement Notice

Tender Ref No:Kha.up.Ni-Namak-47/2022 :-1307 Dated –01/08/2022

Empanelment of suppliers for supply of Salt under Public Distribution System Scheme of Government of Jharkhand for the Third Quarter (October'22-December'22)of Financial year 2022-23 under Reverse e-Auction Mode

Bid Details	
NIT/Bid Document No	Kha.up.Ni-01-Namak-47/2022- 1307 *Dated 01/08/2022*
Bidding Document Cost	Rs. 10,000/-(Rupees Ten Thousand Only) (Non-Refundable & non-Adjustable) as a Demand Draft in favour of " Director, Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs, Jharkhand Ranchi " in the office of Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs, Jharkhand, Ranchi, Third Floor, JSFC Bhawan, Kadru, Ranchi – 834002 before last date of submission of bid documents.
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)/Bid Security	Rs. 30,00,000/- (Thirty Lakh) as EMD (margin money) in the form of Demand Draft in the name of " Director, Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs, Jharkhand Ranchi " in the office of Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs, Jharkhand, Ranchi, Third Floor, JSFC Bhawan, Kadru, Ranchi – 834002 before last date of submission of bid documents.
Document Sale Date & Timing i.e Last Date & time for downloading RFP from website https://jharkhand.gov.in/food &https://jhtenders.eproc.in	From 03/08/2022 to 24/08/2022
Online Bid Submission Period	From 03/08/2022 to 24/08/2022
Technical E-Bid Opening Date & Time	On 25/08/2022 at 12:00 IST
Pre-Bid Meeting	On 08/08/2022 at 16.00 IST through Google meet (meet.google.com/yat-wjbo-pua)
Date of Auction	Will be published after technical evaluation
Name and concerned person for Correspondence	Mr. Sandeep Bhandari, Mobile no.- 9560637779,7488569109, email- Jhsupport@c1india.com

1. All eligible Individuals or partnership firm, Registered Company or Co-operative society or any legal organization should mandatorily register with C1 India Pvt Ltd for participation in Reverse AuctionRegistration Fee Rs. 5,000/- (Five Thousand).
2. Any changes/modification in the Tender documents in the tender documents will be posted on website http://jharkhand.gov.in/food&https://jhtenders.eproc.in

PR 274973 Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs(22-23).D

Sd/-
Director
(Directorate of Food & Consumer Affairs)

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our **MR. DEVARAJU K,** S/o. Mr.Kodandaramaiah, R/at No.55, Yerrappanahalli, Dodda Gubbi, Bangalore North, Dr. Shivaramakaranth Nagar, Bangalore – 560077 is intending to purchase the Scheduled Property from **Sri.P.RAJASHEKARAIAH,** S/o. Sri. C.B Puttaiah. Any person/s objecting for said Purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof within **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our client shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing Site No.149 in Block No.04, Present E-Katha No: 150203480206101926, Old Katha No.1186, Situated at : Yerrappanahalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk erstwhile Bangalore South Taluk, Measuring East to West 30 Feet & North to South 41.6 Feet, In all totally Measuring 1245 Square Feet, and bounded on the : East by : Site No.148; West by : Site No.150;

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-560 043. Contact : 9845846428

Rail Wheel Plant(Bela)
(Distt.: Saran), Bihar-841221

E-Tender Notice No. 05/RWP/Engg./2022-23/WT/(Open) Date:-27/07/2022
The Dy. CE/RWP/Bela for and on behalf of the President of India, invites Online **"e-Open Tender"** through Indian Railways E-Procurement Portal (IREPS) **www.ireps.gov.in** for the following works as detailed :- **1. Name of the work and Location, Approximate cost, Earnest money and Completion period of the work : Tender No.-** 20_RWP_Engg_22_23_WT_Open, **Name of Work:-** Provision of extension of Polyclinic 1st floor at Rail Wheel Plant Bela in district Saran (Chhapra)., **Approximate cost- Rs.60,14,534/-, Tender form Cost-** Nil, **Earnest money- Rs.1,20,300/-, Completion period of the work - 08** Months, **Tender No.-** 21_RWP_Engg_22_23_WT_Open **Name of Work:-** Balance work of "Provision of wire fencing with gates around SPC Bay and changing of damaged AC sheet to check rain in POL ward, Rejection ward, ward no.-4 & TRS, repair to damaged drain in dirt floor area and column between XB/17 to XB/27 in melt shop at RWP/Bela"., **Approximate cost- Rs.52,22,457/-, Tender form Cost-** Nil, **Earnest money- Rs.1,04,500/-, Completion period of the work - 07** Months. **2.** Tender closing date and time : **31.08.2022 upto 12:30** Hrs. **3.** Website particulars and notice board location where complete details of tender can be obtained and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. : The above tender can be submitted only by the date and time as mentioned in the notice. For full details and submission of bid, kindly visit Portal (IREPS) **www.ireps.gov.in.** The prospective firms/bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with IREPS Portal (**www.ireps.gov.in**) for updates including Addendum/ Corrigendum /Cancellation with respect to the above tender because no such any notice/information concerned that shall be published in newspaper.

Dy. Chief Engr., Rail Wheel Plant, Bela
RWP/CPRO/Advt./2022-23/47

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Third sero-survey finds 70% children aged 6 to 14 in State exposed to SARS-CoV-2

The survey began on June 6 and the draft report of the findings is ready

AFSHAN YASMEEN
BENGALURU

Preliminary findings of the State's third sero-survey involving 5,072 unvaccinated children aged six to 14 found that 70% of the children have been exposed to the virus so far. The survey found that over 3,550 of the surveyed children had developed IgG antibodies that remain in the blood after an infection has passed

The survey began on June 6 to understand the active COVID-19 infection, the prevalence of COVID-19 antibodies, waning of antibodies following natural infection, the incidence of re-infection and the prevalent strain of SARS-CoV-2 in children.

Sources in the State's COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) told *The Hindu* that the draft of the findings of the third sero-survey is ready and the process of finalising the report is under way. The draft was presented in the 177th meeting of the TAC held on July 28.

The survey covered children in both urban and rural areas in all districts, including the BBMP. Nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swabs along with 2ml of venous blood was collected from all willing participants by ICTC counsellors and lab technicians under the supervision of paediatricians. Samples of children who had symptoms but tested negative for COVID-19 were tested for other influenza diseases.

With vaccination being taken up only for those aged above 12 years, the TAC had recommended the paediatric sero-survey. "It was essential to find out how many were infected in the third wave and if they are sustaining the antibodies and further plan vaccination strategies," the TAC had said.

The survey covered children in both urban and rural areas in all districts of the State. • FILE PHOTO

Asymptomatic

Doctors said 70% of the surveyed children, who were found to have developed IgG antibodies for COVID-19 may have had mild symptoms of COVID-19 or would have been asymptomatic.

"Although antibodies usually last for six months, in some people they can last even up to nine months. The survey was done in June and the presence of antibodies in the children shows that they would have been infected in the third wave," said C.N. Manjunath, member of the State's Clinical Experts Committee.

"Most of the people infected during the third wave had mild symptoms or were asymptomatic. Although the test positivity rate (TPR) was high, case fatality rate (CFR) was very low. The pattern has been similar in the paediatric population. It is not a surprise that 70% have shown presence of antibodies," he said.

Vaccination

Stating that there is now a need for vaccination to be rolled out for the younger children too, Dr. Manjunath said: "There is robust evidence available to prove that vaccination has significantly reduced hospitalisation and deaths. Those due for vaccinations should get jabbed. Continuing face masking is essential even now."

Chikkanarasa Reddy, professor of Paediatrics at Bowring and Lady Curzon Medical College and Research Institute, said most of the children had asymptomatic infections and hospitalisations were low. "This is a great relief as even if the children are re-infected, it should be mild in nature. However, we will have to wait and see if these antibodies will be effective against new emerging variants or sub-lineages of Omicron. It is now essential to roll out vaccination for children below 12 too," the doctor said.

Highest in second wave

While several experts had warned that the third wave could see children infected the most, as COVID vaccination had not yet been rolled out for them then, data from the State Health Department in April this year showed that the second wave saw the highest number of children infected (0-18 age group.)

While 2,35,639 children were infected in the second wave, less than half of this number was reported in the third wave at 1,05,799. The first wave saw 91,191 kids getting infected, the least among the three waves.

Adamya Chetana chairperson opposes eggs in midday meal

She says it is 'exclusionary to many students who are vegetarians'

JAYANTH R.
BENGALURU

Within a week of the Karnataka government beginning to provide eggs to school children in midday meals, Tejaswini Ananthkumar, chairperson of Adamya Chetana, a voluntary organization which supplies midday meals to many schools, has argued against providing eggs.

"Why has our Karnataka government decided to give eggs in midday meal? These are not the only source of nutrition. It is also exclusionary to many students who are vegetarians. Our policies are to be designed such that every student has equal opportunity," she tweeted on Monday.

The State government decided to provide eggs/groundnut chikki/bananas in mid-day meals on July 19 and started providing them from July last week. However, the scheme is yet to take off in schools that are served meals by Adamya Chetana and Akshaya Patra of ISKCON, two major providers of noon meals to schoolchildren across the State.

Eggs being served at a school in Kalaburagi. • FILE PHOTO

Adamya Chetana is serving midday meals to 1,50,000 schoolchildren everyday in Bengaluru, Hubballi and Kalaburagi districts. ISKCON is serving mid meals to 3,056 schools and 3,98,761 students across the State.

Ms. Ananthkumar's tweet sparked outrage and several nutritionists and activists joined issue with her, following which she told *The Hindu* that Adamya Chetana had already started distributing eggs in schools it has been serving midday meals in Kalaburagi and will do so in Bengaluru and Hubballi as well from next week. However, Akshaya Patra, ISKCON, did not comment on the issue.

Ms. Ananthkumar said said she only expressed her personal opinion on Twitter, and also posted a clarification saying she was not against eggs.

Clarification

She said in her clarification, "In our unequal society there are only a few places where a child is treated equally. School is one such place. That is why you have uniforms so that a child's social identity does not affect their education. However, if the government wants to provide eggs, they should be given as a take-home ration along with other foods and fruits or chikkis equivalent for non-egg eaters. We are committed to providing nutritious meals to children through government's midday meals scheme in accordance with rules designed for the health and wellness of children. However, we need to discuss with nutrition experts, educationists and social science scientists and find a solution."

SDMCs to take charge?

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Vishal. R., Commissioner, Department of Public Instruction, said that he had discussed the modalities of providing eggs in midday meals with Adamya Chetana and Akshaya Patra. He said they "had some principles and were not ready to distribute eggs in midday meals."

He said he was mulling handing over the charge of distributing eggs to the School Development and Monitoring Committee (SDMC) in such cases. "SDMCs will purchase the eggs, banana and chikki. If the schools have kitchens, then can boil and serve the eggs. Otherwise it can be outsourced. I will discuss and take approval from the Minister before it is executed," he said.

HC notice to immediately shift 38 Sri Lankan nationals to FDC

KSLSA says that these victims of human trafficking were required to be shifted after NIA treated them as witnesses

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has ordered issue of notices to the Union and State governments on a PIL seeking directions to immediately shift 38 Sri Lankan nationals, victims of human trafficking, who have been retained illegally at the Central Prisons, Bengaluru, even after a special court in October, 2021, had directed the authorities to shift them to the Foreigners Detention Centre (FDC).

The petition has also sought a direction to the governments to establish sufficient number of FDCs with basic amenities as the FDC for Bengaluru situated at Nelamangala can accommodate only 35 persons as per the communication sent by the officer there.

A Division Bench comprising acting Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice S. Vishwajith Shetty passed the order on the petition filed by the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority (KSLSA).

No valid documents

The 38 Sri Lankan nationals, without any valid documents to enter India, were initially apprehended at a lodge in Mangaluru city in June, 2021, and they were arraigned as accused in the case, which was later handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

The NIA, in its investigation report filed before the Special Court in September 2021 had said that none of the 38 Sri Lankan nationals had any intention to come to India but are victims of human trafficking.

False promise

They were illegally brought to Karnataka and Tamil Nadu by agents who made false promises of getting them jobs in Canada, the NIA had said.

The NIA, which had filed chargesheets against six agents, had treated these 38 Sri Lankan nationals as witnesses instead of accused, and had requested the authorities to deport them to their country.

Following the NIA's report, the special court in October 2021 had directed the Superintendent of Central Prison to shift them to the FDC.

Despite three letters

It has been complained in the petition that the Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru, failed to shift them to FDC even though the Superintendent of Prison had written three letters between November, 2021, and April, 2022.

The petitioner has pointed out that the continuation of 38 Sri Lankans in the prison was found during the inspection of the member-secretary of the District Legal Services Authority, who reported the human rights violation of Sri Lankan nationals to the KSLSA in May, 2022.

CET-2021 repeaters' row: 'Govt. bound by KEA decision'

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Higher Education Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan has reiterated that the academic marks of the Common Entrance Test (CET) 2021 repeater students cannot be considered for the CET-2022 ranking. "The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) decision in this regard is right," he said.

Repeaters of CET-2021 have been protesting against their II PU marks not being considered while assigning CET ranks and have threatened an indefinite fast from August 4. "Considering the II PUC scores of these 24,000 repeaters now will be unfair to 3 lakh students," the Minister said on Tuesday. He said the same yardstick was followed for 64 students from last year's ICSE stream and 600 from the CBSE stream. "There should be no confusion in this matter," he said.

"The issue has been brought to the notice of the Chief Minister," the Minister said, and appealed to the students and parents not to be panic.

Around 6 lakh expected to attend Siddaramaiah's birthday celebration

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HUBBALLI

The stage is set for the 75th birthday celebrations of former Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition in Karnataka Legislative Assembly Siddaramaiah in Davangere on Wednesday in which former AICC President Rahul Gandhi is scheduled to participate.

Davangere is all set to host the 75th birthday celebrations of Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Rain factor

Rain on Tuesday morning caused apprehensions among the volunteers and organisers. However as sun appeared by noon, preparations resumed. The organisers have put up water-proof pandals as a precaution in case Wednesday turns out to be a wet day.

As the organisers are expecting a huge crowd of around six lakh, arrangements have been made accordingly at Shamanur Palace Ground off the Pune-Bengaluru National Highway in Davangere.

There will be three stages, the main stage for Rahul Gandhi, Siddaramaiah, KPCC President D.K. Shivakumar and other VVIP dignitaries. The stage at the left side is for the legislators and the one at right is for KPCC district and State-level office-bearers and association representatives.

As per the information provided by the organisers, seating arrangements for around 3.5 lakh people have been made. In all 33 LED screens have also been installed in the main pandal.

In anticipation of lakhs of people for the 'Amrut Mahotsav' (Platinum Jubilee), three separate food counters have been set up at the event venue. The 'Amrut Mahotsav' committee has hired 1,500 buses for bringing people to the convention and more are expected to arrive in their own transport.

Meanwhile throughout the city of Davangere, Harihar and the road leading to the event venue, banners, buntings and hoardings have been erected to welcome the participants.

BJP's poser to Rahul

Meanwhile, BJP has urged Mr. Rahul Gandhi to make known his stand on Siddaramaiah receiving an award from VCK party that reportedly has a soft corner towards LTTE, which assassinated his father.

Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on Tuesday, BJP MLA and ppokesperson P. Rajiv maintained that Mr. Siddaramaiah should have rejected the award if he had any respect towards the Gandhi family.

Government of Karnataka (Deputy Commissioner office)
(District Urban Development Cell) Haveri Dist, Haveri-581110 Phone No : 08375-249097 (Office)
e-mail : dc_haveri@yahoo.co.in

ಸಂ:ಜಿಕೆ (04)/ಯುಡಿ-4/ಜಿಪಂ-10/2022-23 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 01-08-2022

E-Procurement Tender Notification

Inviting Item wise two cover tender is called for the mentioned Indent No DMA/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT 134558 for TMC Bankapur Amount Put To Tender Rs **506.91** Lakh under 2022-23 Nagarothana Phase 4 works. As per Karnataka Transperency Procurement Port Act 2000 and Modification Act 2021. All the terms and conditions As per (KW-4) pertaining to this tender shall be viewed in the Website **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** for further clarifications please contact District Urbon Development Cell Haveri.

DIPR/HVR/MCA/203/2022-23

Sd/- Executive Engineer, DUDC, Haveri

RAJASTHAN STATE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT CORPORATION LTD.
(A Rajasthan Government Undertaking)
Udyog Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur- 302005, Phone- 0141-2227751, 4593201
Fax: 0141-4593210 E-mail: rsico@rsico.co.in Website-www.rsico.co.in

TENDER NOTICE

RSICO invites sealed tenders/bids costing more than Rs 2.00 Lacs through eproc.rajasthan.gov.in for the following works/services/supply etc.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)
1.	**Unit Head, Sikar**	
1.1	Strengthening & Recarpeting of Road and Construction of Cement Concrete Road at Industrial Area, Sikar. UBN-RDC2223WSO800678	250.00
2.	**Unit Head, Jhunjhunu**	
2.1	Strengthening & Widening of Existing BT Road at Industrial Area, Jhunjhunu Phase-II. UBN-RDC2223WSO800682	313.65
3.	**Unit Head, Udaipur**	
3.1	Construction of Road and RCC Box Culvert for Residential Zone at V/A Kaladwas (Extn.) UBN-RDC2223WSO800685	221.67
4.	**Unit Head, Churu**	
4.1	Widening & Recarpeting of Existing BT Road at Industrial Area NID Ratangarh. UBN-RDC2223WSO800691	243.74

Bidders/contractors may download and submit tender online. Detailed information of tenders and any kind of corrigendum/ date extension, if any in future, may be seen by bidders on websites www.rsico.co.in and www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in
For queries please contact: AGM (Civil) Ph. 0141-4593212
Raj.Samwad/C/23/5878

Government of Karnataka
Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Division, Davanagere
No.EE/RWS& SD/DVG/AE-2/JE-2/JJM/2022-23
Dated:-28/07/2022

Short-Term e-ProcurementTender Notice

Tender is invited through e-procurement for the works of Channagiri/Jagalur/Honnali Taluk for Providing Functional Household tap connections under Jal Jeevan Mission scheme(2021-22) in One/Two cover system by the Executive Engineer, RDW & S Division Davanagere on behalf the Governer of Karnataka from registered Contractors in PWD and also registered in e-Portal cell Item rate tender as per standard bid documents **KW** only through e-Procurement in order to enahance the transparency in the tendering procces and hence there will be no physical form of tender. Last date for submission of tenders on **Dated:12/08/2022 till 5.00 PM.** For further details can be obtained from this office Tel No:08192-262126 or through website **http//eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ/153/ಎಂಆರ್ಎಸ್/2022-23 **Sd/- Executive Engineer**

भारतीय खाद्य निगम FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय सी. 1-, तृतीय तल, मुख्य मार्ग, योग भवन, जयनगर
REGIONAL OFFICE No 18, EAST END MAIN ROAD, 4th 'T' BLOCK, JAYANAGAR, बेंगलूरु BENGALURU - 560041

ई-निविदा सूचना/e-Tender Notice

ऑनलाइन विधियां जो ई एफ पैटेंट के माध्यम से "दो बोली प्रणाली" के तहत दो चरण हैं। 1) आगरा/एफएसडी मद्रा में एचटीसी, 2) आजम शोभापुरा में एफएसडी उकैन तक आरटीसी, 3) आगरा/जौरा और एफएसडी नंजनगुड में एचटीसी, 4) आगरा/जौरा और एफएसडी रायचूर में एचटीसी, 5) आगरा/ जौरा और एफएसडी हसन से एचटीसी, 6) आगरा/एफएसडी मैसूर के लिए एचटीसी और एफएसडी कुशालनगर तक परिवहन, 7) एफएसडी केआर नगर/जौरा मैसूर के लिए एचटीसी और जौरा मैसूर से एफएसडी केआर नगर तक परिवहन, 8) आगरा/एफएसडी बेल्लारी में एचटीसी, 9) आगरा/ एफएसडी नंजनगुड से एफएसडी, मीनागडी (केरल) में आरटीसी, 10) एफएसडी केआर नगर/जौरा हसन के लिए एचटीसी और जौरा हसन से एफएसडी केआर नगर तक परिवहन) और 11) जौरा हसन के लिए एचटीसी और जौरा हसन से एफएसडी कुशालनगर तक परिवहन, आमंत्रित की जा रही है। एफआईसी और निविदा प्रपत्र "**www.fci.gov.in**" और "**https://gem.gov.in**" पर उपलब्ध है। ऑनलाइन बोलियां 24.08.2022 को अपराह्न **02:00** बजे तक प्रस्तुत की जानी है। पैनीकास, प्रतिबंध और बोलियों को ऑनलाइन प्रस्तुत करने के लिए, निविदाकारों को "**https://gem.gov.in**" पर रेखने का अनुरोध किया जा रहा है।

Online Tenders for regular **1) HTC at RH/FSD Maddur, 2) RTC from RS Bommapur to FSD Unkal,3) HTC at RH/GS & FSD Nanjangud and 4) HTC at RH/GS & FSD Raichur, 5) HTC at RH/GS & FSD Hassan, 6) HTC for RH/ FSD Mysore & Transportation to FSD Kushalnagar, 7) HTC for FSD KR Nagar/GS Mysore & Transportation from GS Mysore to FSD KR Nagar, 8) HTC at RS/FSD Bellary, 9) RTC from RH/FSD Nanjangud to FSD, Meenangadi (Kerala), 10) HTC for FSD KR Nagar/GS Hassan & Transportation from GS Hassan to FSD KR Nagar, 11) HTC for GS Hassan & Transportation from GS Hassan to FSD Kushalnagar** for two years is invited under "Two Bid System" through GeM portal. NIT and tender forms are available in "**www.fci.gov.in**" & "**https://gem.gov.in**". Bid should be submitted online within **2.00 PM on 24.08.2022.** For registration, training and submitting bids online, tenderers are requested to visit **https://gem.gov.in.**

महाप्रबंधक (कर्नाटक)
GENERAL MANAGER (KTK)

Directorate of Social Security and Pensions
5th Floor, Kandaya Bhavan, KG Road Bengaluru-560009
Telephone No: 080-22232040/22232060 Fax: 22232040
No: RD 422 DSSP 2020 Date: 29.07.2022

PAPER NOTIFICATION

The Directorate of Social Security and Pensions, Department of Revenue, Invites application from eligible candidates for recruitment of technical staff in the Directorate on outsource Basis for effective implementation of various social schemes.

(1) Post Details: Senior Programmer. **No. of Posts: 1 No. Qualification:** B.E/B.Tech M.Tech in computer science (CS) information technology (IT)/Electronics and communication Engineerig (ECS) or equivalent. **Experience: 7 Years Experience. Technical Skills:** MS SQL: Proficiency in MS SQL Server 2012 and above database MS Excel, MS Access & windows server. Good Knowledge in SQL Queries. ASP.net Development Skills in ASP. **(1)** Establishing the needs of users and monitoring user access and secuirty of database. **(2)** Monitoring performance and managing parameters to provide fast responses to front-end users. **(3)** Considering both back-end organization of data and front-end accessibility for end-users. **(4)** Refining the logical design so that it can be translated into a specific data model. **(5)** Further refining the physical design so that it can be translated into a specific data model. **(6)** Further refining the physical design to meet system storage requirements. **(7)** Installing and testing new versions of the DBMS Developing, managing and testing back-up and recovery plans. **(8)** Capacity Planning. **(9)** Database Backup. **(10)** Other similar and related work. **Communication skill in both kannada & English.** Gross Salary: **Rs.90,000/-.**

(2) Post Details: Junior Programmer. **No. of Posts: 1 No. Qualification:** B.E/B.Tech from recognized university CS/ECE/IT. **Experience: 2 Years Experience. Technical Skills:** MS SQL: Proficiency in MS SQL server 2012 and above databse MS Excel, MS Access & windows server good knowledge in SQL Queries. ASP.net Development Skills in ASP.net, Knowledge in deployment testing and documentation of web applications. **Communication skill in both kannada & English.** Gross Salary: **Rs.70,000/-.**

Note: Opportunity for selection on Remote working and selection will be on the basis of 50% of Salary.

(1) Last date for submission of application: **12.08.2022. (2)** Application form can be downloaded from website of the Directorate **http://dssp.kar.nic.in (3)** Those selected from the applications submitted will be appointed based on personal interview and as per conditions of the Directorate. **(4)** As per the salary fixed above, for the first two months **Rs.70,000/-** for the post of senior programmer and **Rs.50,000/-** for the post of Junior programmer will be paid and later based on the technical knowledge increase in salary will be decided.

Sd/- Director, Directorate of Social Security & Pensions, Bengaluru.
DIPR/DD.CP/1619/MCA/2022-23

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

SMT PARVATI Gopalaratnam 97, W/o Lt Col R Gopalaratnam (late), former Librarian Theosophical Society, passed away peacefully on 1 Aug, cremated @ Besant Nagar on 2 Aug. Gautama, Sumitra, Vijay, Arjun, Ambuja, Diwakar, Ram 6381362267 / 7259938920

Smt. S. THAILAMBAL (90)
Attained Shivaloka Prapthi on 1st August at 11-45 PM at the Residence of her Son S.Sankararaman Hon. Secretary Amar Seva Sangam, Ayikudy
Bereaved by
Son, Daughter-in-Law and Daughters
seetaram.s@gmail.com / 9361011588

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU
PROBATE CIVIL PETITION No. 17/2021
[IN THE MATTER OF ASSETS OF THE DECEASED SRI. T. RAJASHEKAR REDDY]
BETWEEN: **Sri. Mohan Reddy,** Aged about 22 years, S/o Late T. Rajashekar Reddy, R/at. No.1300/C, 1st Main, 1st Cross, HAL 3rd Stage, New Thippasandra, Bengaluru-560075. ...PETITIONER
AND: **1) R. Bhavitha,** Aged about 35 years, D/o Late T. Rajashekar Reddy, W/o S. Chandrashekar, R/at No.206, Barowell Road, 1st A Cross, Whitefield, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru-560066.
2) R. Lavanya, Aged about 31 years, D/o Late T. Rajashekar Reddy, W/o Naveen Reddy, R/at No. B-022, 2nd Floor, 'B' Block, Living Walls Apartment, Horamavu Main Road, Bengaluru-560043.
3) R. Lakshmi, Aged about 29 years, D/o Late T. Rajashekar Reddy, R/at No. SR No.259/1A/4, Azad Nagar, Lohegaon, Pune-411032.
4) R. Meghana, Aged about 24 years, D/o Late T. Rajashekar Reddy, W/o Mahendra Reddy, R/at No. E-116, EWS Nilaya, Government School Road, Doddathoguru, Electronic City, Bengaluru-560100. ...RESPONDENTS
WHEREAS, the Petitioner above named has made a Petition under Part IX (Section 276 and 300 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925) for grant of Probate of the will dated 21st October 2020 annexed to his Petition, said to have been executed by the Deceased, SRI T. RAJASHEKAR REDDY, late residing at No.1300/C, 1st Main, 1st Cross, HAL 3rd Stage, New Thippasandra, Bengaluru-560075.
BE IT KNOWN that no caveat has been entered and that the said petition is posted for hearing on the **17th Day of August 2022**, and all persons claiming to have any interest in the estate of the Deceased may come and see the proceedings before the grant of Probate.
Given under my hand and the seal of this Court, this the 12th day of July 2022.
By Order of the Court, Asst. Registrar High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru
Counsel for Petitioners
SRI. UDITA RAMESH, Advocate
M/s Sreevatsa Associates
58, 2nd Stage, Indiranagar, Bengaluru- 560038.

Komatireddy Raj Gopal Reddy announcing his resignation. • NAGARA GOPAL

Raj Gopal Reddy exits Cong., quits as legislator

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Munugode MLA, Komatireddy Raj Gopal Reddy announced his resignation from the Congress and also as a legislator but refused to give more details about his joining the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) even as he maintained that only BJP can defeat Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao.

At a hurriedly called press conference on Tuesday evening, he said he would meet the Assembly Speaker after taking his time to submit the resignation. On whether he would contest again in the bypoll, he said he had not taken any decision so far but will consult the people before making up his mind.

The Munugode MLA tried to portray his resignation as a weapon for the development of his constituency accusing Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao of announcing new projects and releasing funds only to the constituencies where the bypolls were held.

Mr. Reddy, however, made it clear that he would not criticise the Congress leadership as he had respect for AICC chief Sonia Gandhi.

Rain batters Kerala, toll hits 12

Heavy downpour triggers landslips in many places; three persons missing

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The resurgent monsoon caused widespread havoc across Kerala with heavy rain triggering minor landslips in many places, leaving a trail of destruction in the hilly stretches of the State.

As many as six people, including a toddler, were killed in various rain-related incidents, including landslips, on Tuesday alone, taking the death toll to 12 in three days. Three more people were reported to be missing in various rain-related incidents.

As many as 95 active relief camps are operational in the State, accommodating 2,291 inmates. Among the districts, the highest number of 21 camps was in Kottayam with 447 inmates, while 15 relief camps were opened in Thrissur, accommodating 657 people. A total of 27 houses were destroyed while 123 houses were damaged in the rain that began on Sunday.

The body of three-year-old Numa Thaslin, daughter of Nadeera, a native of Chengannur, who had gone missing in Peravoor, was recovered following a search led by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) team and local people.

An elephant caught in the strong water current at Chalakudy river at Pillappara, near Athirappilly • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Nadeera had stepped to the backyard of her house with Numa on hearing the rumbling sound of the landslip, but the child was swept away in the currents triggered by the landslip near the building.

The body of Rajesh of Vallara Colony, Poolakutty in Kannur, who was also missing since last night, was recovered in the morning.

More bodies recovered

In another instance, the body of Riyaz, who had gone missing in the Manimala river at Koottickal, near Mundakayam, was also found on Tuesday. The bodies of Poulose, who went missing in a forest at Urulanthanni near Kothamangalam, and Aneesh, who had been missing at Mulanthuruthy in Ernakulam, were also recovered on Tuesday.

A wild elephant that was caught in the middle of the raging Chalakudy river for several hours near Athirappilly in Thrissur finally managed to get out of the river after close to five hours of its valiant attempts.

Holiday declared

The district administrations have declared a holiday for educational institutions in Kozhikode, Thrissur, Alappuzha, Ernakulam, Malappuram, Idukki, Palakkad, Pathanamthitta, Wayanad, Kottayam, and Thiruvananthapuram.

Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has declared a red alert in 10 districts on Wednesday, warning of extreme heavy rains.

The intense rain triggered by a monsoon trough is likely to continue for three more days. An orange alert has been declared in the remaining four districts – Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta and Kasaragod – warning of very heavy to heavy rains.

No talk on Karnataka Cong. leadership till Assembly elections: party committee

PAC meeting resolves to fight unitedly against BJP's misrule, says Venugopal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HUBBALLI

AICC general secretary K.C. Venugopal on Tuesday night said there would be no discussion on the leadership issue in Karnataka till the next Assembly elections and that it had been unanimously resolved to fight unitedly against the BJP's "misrule".

Briefing mediapersons in Hubballi after the Political Affairs Committee (PAC) meeting in which Rahul Gandhi, party MP, took part, Mr. Venugopal said a clear message had been given in the meeting about the leadership issue and that public utterances on the party's internal issues would not be tolerated.

He said knowingly or unknowingly public statements on party issues had been issued and sometimes a few leaders had fallen into the "media trap", adding to the confusion. The issue was also deliberated upon and it had been communicated clearly that such utterances would not be tolerated henceforth.

Any discussion on the chief ministerial candidate would be made only after the Assembly elections and the decision would be taken by MLAs and the high command, he said.

It was unanimously decided in the meeting to fight against the BJP with one voice and take the message of the BJP government's "misrule" to the people. "People of Karnataka are already fed up by the "40% commission" and rising unemployment. We will fight unitedly and win back the State with people-centric approach", he said.

To a query, he said various issues pertaining to the 2023 elections were discussed, including management of the campaign.

Four States in south top in misuse of MGNREGS

M. RAJEEV
HYDERABAD

Four southern States – Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Telangana – have reported the highest number of cases of financial misappropriation in the implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

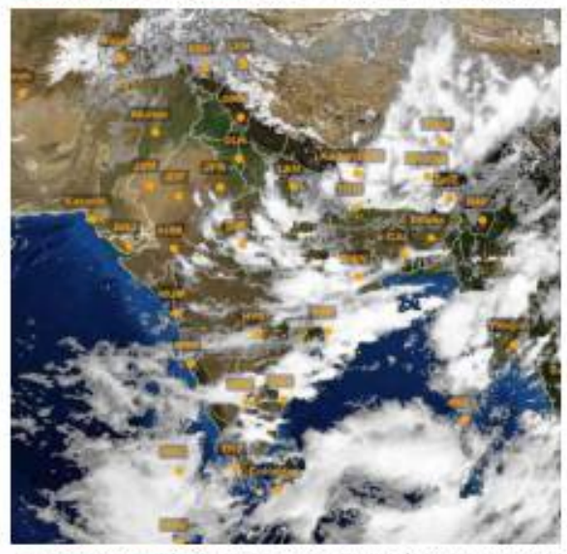
According to Minister of State for Rural Development Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti, of the total 4.92 lakh cases reported across the country, those reported from the four States accounted for 4.18 lakh. Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu reported the highest number of 1.59 lakh cases of financial misappropriation each followed by Karnataka (59,290 cases) and Telangana (40,562 cases), the Minister informed Parliament in a written reply to a query raised.

She said the corresponding misappropriation of funds was to the tune of ₹337.43 crore in A.P., ₹246.22 crore in Tamil Nadu, ₹184.17 crore in Karnataka and ₹85.38 crore in Telangana. Of the total cases, total number of decided cases in the four States, A.P. accounted for 1.11 lakh, Tamil Nadu (1.23 lakh), Karnataka (38,809) and Telangana (40,505).

The Minister informed Parliament that the Ministry initiated steps to strengthen the social audit system under the MGNREGS. Auditing standards had been issued and States/UTs were advised to establish independent social audit units, conduct social audit as per audit of scheme rules, 2011, and training of village resource persons for conducting social audit.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, Assam, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala, Mahe, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	–	32.1	26.7	Kozhikode	41	26.0	22.8
Ahmedabad	–	33.4	26.8	Kurnool	91	31.5	21.5
Aizawl	7	28.4	21.0	Lucknow	–	33.6	27.9
Allahabad	–	34.7	28.2	Madurai	–	34.2	24.1
Bengaluru	46	28.1	20.1	Mangaluru	16.9	27.1	23.2
Bhopal	–	32.8	23.4	Mumbai	11	31.8	25.2
Bhubaneswar	–	35.6	25.2	Mysuru	26	30.0	22.0
Chandigarh	–	35.8	27.1	New Delhi	–	35.7	25.8
Chennai	–	33.6	26.0	Patna	7	32.9	26.0
Coimbatore	–	28.8	22.0	Port Blair	9	31.4	25.1
Dehradun	9	32.7	23.7	Puducherry	–	31.1	24.4
Gangtok	6.8	20.8	18.1	Pune	–	31.3	22.5
Goa	1	29.9	25.2	Raipur	–	34.5	26.2
Guwahati	15	34.5	25.8	Ranchi	26	30.8	23.6
Hubballi	–	28.0	22.0	Shillong	–	24.6	17.9
Hyderabad	30	31.8	23.4	Shimla	0.8	26.6	18.4
Imphal	–	32.0	22.1	Srinagar	0.6	28.9	17.5
Jaipur	1	33.6	25.6	Thiruvananthapuram	34	27.0	22.8
Kochi	138	24.8	23.4	Tiruchi	7	33.9	25.0
Kohima	–	25.0	17.0	Vijayawada	–	35.2	26.4
Kolkata	–	34.5	28.6	Visakhapatnam	–	33.5	27.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — **Yesterday**

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	27	14	88	30	74	
Bengaluru	10	21	21	78	100	
Chennai	4	11	62	71	63	
Delhi	27	65	92	66	213	
Hyderabad	4	15	67	65	92	
Kolkata	10	13	24	65	89	
Lucknow	6	72	54	31	59	
Mumbai	11	14	70	145	116	
Pune	–	39	98	–	–	–
Visakhapatnam	20	45	15	65	119	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Baddi, Himachal Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 192 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 13

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Amit Shah's visit to Bengaluru gives rise to curiosity

This comes close on the heels of murders in DK and BJP workers' anguish

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is arriving in Bengaluru close on the heels of back-to-back murders in Dakshina Kannada that have put the BJP government in a spot.

The official purpose of the visit of Mr. Shah, who is arriving on Wednesday night, is to attend a meeting of the cultural wing of the CII. However, the political context of his visit which comes at a time when BJP workers, especially those from the youth wing and the IT cell, are publicly expressing anguish against their own government, has arisen curiosity.

Amit Shah

Though no formal meetings with party leaders have been scheduled, sources in the BJP said Mr. Shah is expected to speak to all the authorities concerned about the law and order issue in Karnataka. "It appears that his visit is aimed at instilling confidence among BJP workers that the party government is not weak when it comes to protecting them," sources in the party said.

His visit may turn out to be an informal exercise of taking stock of developments and also reviewing the situation, they noted. Some party leaders are also expecting that he may ask the authorities concerned to expedite the inquiry into the serial murders in Dakshina Kannada.

It is being said that the BJP national leadership has taken seriously party workers expressing their anguish as that may affect the morale of the party cadre ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections. What has caused concern among the party leadership is that its poll preparations, particularly the outreach programmes, have been relegated to the background due to the anguish of the party workers.

Prayer time

With devotion: A group of devotees performing puja on the occasion of Naga Panchami, a day to worship snakes, in Bengaluru on Tuesday. • K. MURALI KUMAR

Land for Chanakya varsity: High Court notice to govt.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Tuesday ordered issue of notice to the State government on a PIL petition questioning the legality of allotting 116.16 acres of land, which is part of the land parcel acquired for industrial purposes near Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru, to a private university at a concessional price.

A Division Bench comprising acting Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice S. Vishwajith Shetty passed the order on the petition filed by Sudha Katwa, a city-based advocate.

The petitioner has questioned allotment the land made to the Chankya University at a price of ₹50 crore in June 2021.

It has been alleged in the petition that allotment was done without following procedure as the government swiftly acted on the application filed directly to the then Chief Minister by Centre for Educational and Social Studies, which is the sponsor of the university in March 2021.

The petitioner had also claimed that allotting the land at ₹50 crore has resulted in a minimum loss of ₹137 crore as the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board has fixed ₹1.61 crore per acre as rate for the undeveloped industrial lands for the bulk allotment of lands.

The petitioner has also contended that the lands, acquired for the hi-tech, aerospace and defence park, could not have been allotted to a private university, which was not even existed when the allotment was done in June 2021.

The university came into existence only in October 2021 following the enactment of the Chanakya University Act, 2021 by the State government, the petitioner has pointed out.

Sulibele vents his ire on BJP, Bommai-led government

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Even before the ruling BJP could recover from the wrath of its anguished Yuva Morcha volunteers after the murder of morcha office-bearer Praveen Nettaru in Dakshina Kannada, Hindutva ideologue Chakravarty Sulibele has unleashed a virulent attack against the party and its government led by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

In a series of 22 tweets, Mr. Sulibele has called the government "corrupt" and accused it of failing to solve the problems of farmers, teachers, and labourers. "Many people like me can never vote Congress, but we are not fools either to keep people like you in power," he told the BJP.

The context and timing of the attack that coincides with the first anniversary of the Bommai government is being viewed in political circles as an indication of the pent-up anger of the party cadre that feels isolated from the power politics of the BJP. This is evident in Mr. Sulibele saying that the BJP inducted "a few Congressmen for the sake of power who are corrupt, dishonest, anti-idealistic, anti-Modi & [who have] manhandled volunteers. And gave them administrative & ministerial roles in the government."

"When nation was fighting COVID-19, here the leaders were busy making money by renting beds and purchasing Covid essentials like PPE kits and other stuff," he said.

Training his guns on Mr. Bommai, Mr. Sulibele said MLAs were complaining that the Chief Minister does not even have time to sign files. "But he has all the time to watch movie premieres and shed tears. During the death of a film actor, he gave three days of his time to get involved," Mr. Sulibele said, in an obvious reference to the untimely death of actor Puneeth Rajkumar during which time Mr. Bommai personally monitored the arrangements.

Right from 2019, when the BJP took over the reins of Karnataka, the plight of volunteers has become worse than that of a "football" that is being kicked around between the two factions in the party, he said.

However, Mr. Sulibele added a word of advise and said, "The BJP still has time to recover. Just reach out to karyakartas, listen to them. Show the best governance model. Act tough on bad elements. Take the hard decisions and act on it."

Gas leaks out again at Seeds unit in A.P.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM

Within a span of two months, there was one more gas leak incident at the Seeds Intimate Apparel India Private Limited (Seeds), located within the Brandix India Apparel City (BIAC), in Anakapalli district of Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday.

The company officials said as per initial reports, about 17 women employees were hospitalised. However, the employees and the members of the CITU said over 80 women employees had fallen sick.

As per the company officials, none of them was in a serious condition. On June 3, there was a similar incident in the same unit.

Architect of National Flag honoured in A.P.

CM inaugurates photo exhibition to mark birth anniversary of Pingali Venkayya

STAFF REPORTER
GUNTUR

Rallies, public meetings and photo exhibitions marked the 146th birth anniversary celebrations of Pingali Venkayya, the architect of the National Flag, across Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday.

Programmes were lined up for the celebrations organised as part of the *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*.

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the celebrations by unfurling the national flag at his camp office.

Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy paying tributes to Pingali Venkayya on Tuesday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

He unveiled a portrait of Pingali Venkayya and inaugurated a photo exhibition on the occasion.

Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy also unveiled a portrait of Pingali Venkayya prepared by Regulla Mallikarjuna Rao, Director of Tourism and Culture. Energy Minister P. Ramachandra Reddy, Adviser to government (public affairs) Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy, Chief Secretary Sameer Sharma and DGP K.V. Rajendranath Reddy and the CMO officials also paid rich tributes.

Patriotic fervour marked the '2K rally' taken out at Bapatla. The rally began at the B.R. Ambedkar's statue and ended at the statue of Pingali Venkayya at the railway station. Participating in the celebrations, Minister for Social Welfare M. Nagarjuna said that institutions such as panchayat raj system were upholding the democratic values.

Stating that the country had achieved a lot of progress during the last 75 years in political representation, economic development and public healthcare system, the Minister said a lot needs to be done to ensure that the fruits of political, social and economic revolution reach the common man.

The Minister, along with Deputy Speaker Kona Raghupati, Bapatla Collector Vijaya Krishnan and Superintendent of Police Vakul Jindal, paid tributes at the statue of Pingali Venkayya at the railway station.

Death of a face

Zawahiri's killing is more important for its implications for the Doha agreement

The killing of al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri at a Kabul safe house by an American drone is a clear setback to the Sunni Islamist terror organisation. Zawahiri, the Egyptian doctor-turned-terrorist-in-chief, had been leading al-Qaeda since the 2011 killing of his predecessor, Osama bin Laden, in Pakistan's Abbottabad in an American commando raid. Zawahiri was an instrumental figure in most of al-Qaeda's big attacks, from the American embassy bombings in east Africa in August 1998 to the September 11, 2001 attacks. Inspired by the teachings of Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood cleric Sayyid Qutb, who was hanged by the administration of President Gamal Abdel Nasser, Zawahiri had formed an underground Islamist organisation as a teenager. Later, he headed the dreaded Egyptian Islamic Jihad, which merged with al-Qaeda a few months before the 9/11 attacks. Since then, he had been number two in al-Qaeda, which he took over after bin Laden's death. Just like his former boss, he was believed to be hiding in Pakistan. But U.S. officials say Zawahiri moved back to Afghanistan earlier this year, perhaps hoping that he would be safer in a Taliban-controlled country. It turned out to be his last hiding place.

The killing is a rare battlefield victory for the Biden administration in counterterrorism. It lends credence to the administration's claims that it can continue to carry out successful operations "over the horizon" without basing troops in countries such as Afghanistan. U.S. intelligence officials worked for months to confirm Zawahiri's identity and establish a pattern of life before carrying out the strike. But the attack also raises several questions. The withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan was based on the Doha agreement, reached between the Trump administration, which was later accepted by the Biden administration, and the Taliban. Under the agreement, the Taliban promised to cut all ties with terrorist organisations such as the Islamic State and al-Qaeda in return for the U.S.'s pullout. The U.S. completed its withdrawal on August 31, 16 days after the Taliban captured Kabul. While the Taliban are fighting the Islamic State, their ties with al-Qaeda have remained mysterious. Sirajuddin Haqqani, leader of the Haqqani faction, who is currently the Taliban's Interior Minister, has been known for his close al-Qaeda links. Given the history of al-Qaeda and the Taliban, it is difficult to believe that Zawahiri was living in one of the wealthiest quarters of Kabul – it also houses several high-profile Taliban leaders, technocrats and former warlords – without the knowledge of the Taliban leadership. Whether Zahawiri's killing will weaken a decentralised al-Qaeda without an organisational hierarchy is not clear. But a bigger challenge the U.S. and other countries face is to ensure that the Taliban regime does not help terror outfits regroup in Afghanistan. That is the spirit of the Doha agreement.

An avoidable crisis

China and the U.S. do not want a conflict, but their actions are not serving their cause

The visit to Taiwan by the U.S. House Speaker and veteran Democrat politician, Nancy Pelosi, has risked triggering a fourth Taiwan Strait crisis and a dangerous escalation amid already worsening relations between the world's two biggest powers. Ms. Pelosi is the highest-ranking U.S. official to visit Taiwan in 25 years – the first by a House Speaker since Newt Gingrich's trip in 1997. That visit took place in the aftermath of the third Taiwan Strait crisis, when China conducted missile tests in response to then Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui visiting the U.S. In a phone call on July 28, U.S. President Biden sought to assure his counterpart, Xi Jinping, that "the U.S. policy has not changed". But that does not seem to be the view in Beijing. As China's Foreign Ministry put it on August 2, in its view, Washington, going back to the days of the Trump administration, has been gradually "hollowing out" its "One China Policy". In the call, Mr. Xi warned Mr. Biden that "those who play with fire will perish by it" and said he "hoped that the U.S will be clear-eyed" about the consequences. Beijing has responded by announcing military drills near Taiwan. More countermeasures could follow.

This latest crisis comes at a time when China-U.S. relations are already on edge. This explains why even officials in the Biden administration and the U.S. military had called on Ms. Pelosi to reconsider. Ironically, that prospect was likely diminished by China's stern public warnings, which all but ensured the trip would go ahead as a cancellation would have been politically costly for the Biden administration. Domestic political considerations appear to be driving both sides into their respective corners in this entirely avoidable crisis. Mr. Xi is three months away from a politically sensitive Party Congress that will mark the start of his third term. White House officials have made the point that Ms. Pelosi represents a different branch of government and members of Congress have travelled previously to Taiwan. That the visit appears to have been driven largely by Ms. Pelosi, who has been sharply critical of China's policies in Tibet, Xinjiang and Hong Kong, rather than by the Biden administration, has not appeared to have assuaged Beijing. A sharp response, in Beijing's view, would dissuade other countries from engaging with Taiwan at higher political levels. It may also burnish Mr. Xi's status at home. The fact that neither side wants, nor can afford, a military confrontation may yet see the current tensions defused with each side walking away and claiming a show of strength for their domestic audiences. The latest crisis has, however, made clear the perilous state of relations between the world's two biggest powers. It is unlikely to be the last.

Making sense of the 'freebies' issue

Most welfare schemes contribute to improving human development outcomes, also resulting in higher growth

DIPA SINHA

Concern over 'freebies' in Indian politics has recently been expressed by those in the highest offices in the country. Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the Bundelkhand Expressway (Uttar Pradesh) on July 16, Prime Minister Narendra Modi warned youth not to get carried away by the 'revari culture', where votes are sought by promising 'freebies'. He hit out at the Opposition parties for offering freebies and said that this was dangerous and harmful to the development of the country.

Days later, a Bench headed by the Chief Justice of India, N.V. Ramana, heard a public interest litigation in which the petitioner argued against the promise of 'irrational freebies' by claiming that these distort the electoral process. It has been reported that during the hearing, the Chief Justice of India remarked that 'freebies' were a serious issue and asked the Central government to take a stand on the need to control the announcement of 'freebies' by political parties during election campaigns. The Court also suggested that the Finance Commission could be involved to look into the matter and propose solutions.

Still confusion

The discussion on the demerits of 'freebies' distributed to the public as a result of election promises is not new in India. However, there is often confusion on what constitutes 'freebies', with a number of services that the Government provides to meet its constitutional obligations towards citizens also being clubbed in this category. The basic argument is that these are a waste of resources and place a burden on already stressed fiscal resources. In such discussions, 'freebies' not only include the free distribution of what may be considered 'club goods' such as televisions and gold chains but also welfare schemes such as free or subsidised rations under the Public Distribution System (PDS), cooked meals under the mid-day meal scheme, supplementary nutrition through anganwadis, and work provided through the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

Foodgrain distribution

But can these expenditures by the Government be considered 'freebies', as many commentators seem to do? For instance, is the distribution of free foodgrain during a pandemic that devastated lives and livelihoods at a time when godowns of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) had over 100 million tonnes of rice and wheat a 'freebie'? The Prime Minister and members of the Bharatiya Janata Party have repeatedly campaigned about the Government implementing the 'world's largest food security programme' by distributing free foodgrain, through the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) to around 80 crore ration cardholders.

The PMGKAY is probably what kept many away from the brink of starvation during the novel coronavirus pandemic. If anything, it can be argued that coverage under the PMGKAY must be expanded to include non-ration card holders as well, as there are many who are excluded from ration lists but are in need of subsidised or free foodgrains. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been studies which showed the poverty-reducing effect of the PDS. Subsidised foodgrains distributed under the PDS not only contribute to ensuring basic food security but

T. SIMCARVELOU

also act as an implicit income transfer allowing the poor to afford commodities that they otherwise could not. Further, the PDS also plays an important role in our country where public procurement at minimum support prices (MSPs) is one of the main instruments of support to farmers. The PDS allows foodgrains to be available for cheap for consumers while assuring remunerative prices to farmers.

PDS coverage, MGNREGA

From around the mid-2000s, the PDS increasingly became a political issue, with State governments expanding coverage and reducing prices. Lower prices in the PDS became electoral issues in the southern States even earlier. Such initiatives were also included in the poll promises of almost all political parties during the mid- to late-2000s, including the general elections in 2009. This ultimately led to the National Food Security Act being passed by Parliament unanimously in 2013. Despite its shortcomings, it cannot be denied that the PMGKAY and the support that it provided during the pandemic would have been impossible had it not been for the NFSA which expanded the coverage of the PDS to about two thirds of the population. In its absence, a much smaller number of people would have had ration cards with high errors in identification of the poor (as was seen in the previous targeted system of dividing the population into those above and below the poverty line. With expansion in coverage, exclusion errors have automatically reduced, although not entirely eliminated. A universal PDS would take us even closer towards this goal.

Other welfare schemes that are repeatedly berated as adding to the 'subsidy' burden of the state also contribute to human development and protection of the basic rights of the people to nutrition, work, etc., essentially the right to life with dignity. MGNREGA for instance has been another scheme which has been a lifeline for many during the pandemic and earlier. At a time when there are few employment opportunities, working under MGNREGA can guarantee some assured wages; if implemented in the true spirit of the legislation this is also demand-based and, therefore, responds to as much need as there is.

Similarly, mid-day meals in schools have been proven to contribute to increased enrolment and retention in schools and addressing classroom hunger. A number of other schemes such as old age, single women and disabled pensions, community kitchens in urban areas, free uniforms and textbooks for children in government schools, and free health-care services play a critical role in providing social security and access to basic entitlements in our country. In fact, there are a number of lacunae in these programmes which call for expansion in coverage, allocation of greater resources, along with putting in place mechanisms for greater accountability and grievance redress.

In perspective

Undermining the importance of these interventions of the Government by calling them 'freebies' exposes the elitism in our society, where the poor are seen as being unproductive and dependent on charity. Rather, the problem in fact is that these issues are not given enough attention in the political process. If anything, building public pressure towards making welfare delivery an electoral issue is the need of the hour. A discussion on whether eggs will be served in the mid-day meal programme, how many days of work will be provided under the employment guarantee scheme, schemes for access to free medicines, or at what price subsidised grain will be given under the PDS are positive signals of electoral democracy responding to the needs of the majority of people. It is important to recognise that most welfare schemes contribute to improving human development outcomes, which also results in higher economic growth in future. Sometimes, this process throws up initiatives that seem 'wasteful' – while these must be discussed, one cannot deny them completely.

In any case, how does one define a 'freebie'? Around ₹1 lakh crore is the revenue forgone annually as a result of 'major tax incentives for corporate tax payers'. Putting together all tax exemptions and concessions, including on foreign trade and personal income taxes, the revenue forgone each year is over ₹5 lakh crore. Corporate tax rates have been reducing and Budget documents show that in 2019-20, the effective tax rate (tax-to-profit ratio) declined as profits increased. However, one does not see much pressure for a justification for these concessions in mainstream discussions. The fact that small amounts given to the poor by a system that has mostly failed them are called 'freebies', while the freebies that the rich get all the time through low tax rates and exemptions are 'incentives' is nothing but a reflection of the nature of democracy in our country.

Dipa Sinha is faculty at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi. The views expressed are personal

A turning point in crypto regulation, led by Europe

If GDPR marked a decisive moment in consumer data protection, MiCA could point to responsible crypto management

ASHISH SINGHAL

There has been a lot of noise over Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman's answer to a question recently in Parliament about the Indian government's stance on cryptocurrencies. Some headlines even went as far as to suggest that there was a fresh plan to ban crypto in India.

As per my reading, the only thing the Finance Minister's answer reveals is that while India's central bank wants a ban on cryptocurrencies, any legislation for the "regulation or for banning crypto" can be effective only after significant international collaboration.

A seamless asset

This is true. Crypto is an Internet-native asset not limited by geographical boundaries. To transfer crypto, one does not need a pipeline or shipping container. A steady Internet connection and some elemental knowledge of crypto services are what are needed that will allow anyone in the world to transfer crypto assets.

Further, crypto assets are not issued or controlled by any enterprise. There are a little over 19 million bitcoins in circulation at present, out of the total capped supply (hence, the scarcity) of 21 million bitcoins. Any of the estimated 75 million crypto wallet holders could be owning these bitcoins, or their fractions (called satoshis or sats).

How then can such a seamless financial asset be regulated? How can regulators monitor the flow of capital in and out of their jurisdiction? Answers to these questions will lead us to a framework to regulate the crypto industry. Fortunately, global consensus is emerging on this aspect.

This June, amid all the attention over inflation and the related capital market turmoil, the European Parliament and Council, the legislative arms of the European Union, came to a provisional agreement on long-awaited regulations on crypto, namely, the Regulation of Markets in Crypto-Assets, or MiCA.

GETTY IMAGES

It took two years of brainstorming and negotiations for Europe to get here. But before we parse through MiCA, it is important to understand why European regulations are noteworthy.

The European market is second to the United States economically and behind Asia in terms of the number of Internet users. Yet, Europe is the global yardstick on technology regulations. The General Data Protection Regulation, or GDPR, first published in 2016 and implemented in 2018, marked a turning point on consumer data protection and privacy not just in Europe but the world over.

The GDPR introduced a framework for seeking user consent and introduced several progressive rules such as the right to forget. The Supreme Court of India has also held that the right to privacy is a fundamental right and an integral part of the right to life and liberty.

Setting standards

Now, Europe is showing us the path to regulate crypto assets. So, how does MiCA intend to regulate an asset not limited by geography? It proposes to regulate crypto asset services and crypto asset issuers. By regulating these entities, Europe intends to provide consumer protection, transparency, and governance standards, regardless of the decentralised nature of the technology.

For instance, under MiCA, crypto asset service providers will be liable in case they lose investors' assets, and will be subject to European market-abuse regulations, including those on market manipulation and insider trading.

Then, MiCA goes further to put forth specific regulations for stablecoins, rightly demarcating them from other crypto assets. Under the proposed rules, issuers of stablecoins – asset-referenced tokens is the term it uses – are subject to a greater degree of compliance and declaration. Under MiCA, stablecoin issuers must maintain reserves to cover all claims of the coins, and should implement a process for immediate redemption if and when holders seek one.

The TerraUSD example

This is significant. The recent collapse of TerraUSD, an algorithmic stablecoin that had no adequate reserve and relied mainly on the demand-and-supply balance with its sister coin, Luna, had caused significant losses to retail and institutional investors. If the laws Europe proposes were in effect, TerraUSD issuers would have had to maintain 1:1 reserve, which would have prevented the bank run that roiled the crypto market.

To be clear, Europe still has some distance to cover to implement these proposed rules. But like the GDPR did for data protection, Europe has shown the way forward to regulate crypto in a manner that enables responsible businesses and protects users. It would not be too long for other nations to follow suit.

Ashish Singhal is the co-founder and CEO of CoinSwitch

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Price rise debate

The Finance Minister's reply to the debate on price rise was more about scoring political brownie points than seeking to reassure the common man who is reeling under an unprecedented price rise of essential commodities and runaway inflation (Page 1, "GST levies won't burden the poor", August 2).

It was surprising to read about the Finance Minister's averment that GST levies will not burden the poor.

One wonders how higher GST on staple food items will not impact the poor. There are enough indicators that there will be a cascading effect given the fact that a majority of people in the country have rice as their staple food.

The GST Council's decisions are almost always decided by the Centre, with States given a marginal role in offering suggestions (usually brushed aside).

There was also no word in the Minister's reply on what is being done to tackle the crucial unemployment issue.

J. ANANTHA PADMANABHAN,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

■ The assertion by the Finance Minister that the GST levies on food items would not burden poor households is not convincing as the ground realities are different. It is no surprise that the Opposition was left disappointed by the reply – that the decision has been taken by the GST Council 'with the approval of all States'. The statement that the Government is trying to keep inflation at 7% when inflation under the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) regime was over 9% is unacceptable. The ruling party has been in power for eight years now and it does not look right for it to be comparing itself with the UPA government for everything. The ruling dispensation should try to offer concrete solutions instead of citing other economic factors.

D. SETHURAMAN,
Chennai

■ The treasury benches shall never relent to the pleas of the Opposition! This after the Opposition had stalled parliamentary proceedings to highlight price rise and GST rates. The Finance Minister seemed to remind us of her spokeswoman-ship days (Page 1, "'GST levies won't burden the poor'," August 2). Free food to 80 crore people was her trump card in favour of the poor. All other parameters, according to her, are under control despite global crises and the 'burden' of the UPA's oil bonds. The Congress's Gaurav Gogoi was right in mentioning the ruling party's strategy of the proverbial 'Eat the cake if you can't buy bread!' All said and done, the Opposition parties got nothing in return for their efforts.

K. NEHRU PATNAIK,
Visakhapatnam

■ On what basis was the Finance Minister claiming in Parliament that GST levies won't burden the poor? Daily wage workers and the common man now purchase small sachets of milk, curd and butter milk as there is a fear of adulteration. Even an increase of a rupee does affect the poorest of the poor in India.

N. NAGARAJAN,
Secunderabad

The V-P election

The interview by the Opposition's Vice-Presidential candidate, Margaret Alva, shows that the fighting spirit within her is alive and kicking (Inside pages, "Where is the south in this whole set-up, and who represents us?" July 31). One would wonder why her capabilities remain unutilised, or under-utilised, by the Congress party for inscrutable logic.

Ms. Alva is right in pointing out the glaring injustice in not providing even a modicum of representation for South India in top constitutional posts or other higher leadership levels.

AYYASSERI RAVEENDRANATH,
Aranmula, Kerala

Whither democracy

Our freedom fighters would be appalled by how the entire space of the country's popular culture and consciousness is being occupied by virulent nationalism (Editorial page, "Reengineering India's consciousness", August 2). The right has, to a great extent, succeeded in making the 'ideology of the ruling class', the ruling ideology of the wider society. The country's political complexion has changed so much that it is boggling that Savarkar is being propped up as a rival or as an equal to Mahatma Gandhi for veneration as the country's foremost icon.

One must not forget that the ruling party has corporate billionaires, top bureaucrats, academics, think tanks, film stars, journalists and judges among legions of its supporters. The new form of nationalism is antithetical to inclusivity.

G. DAVID MILTON,
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

Monkeypox strategy

Urgent measures need to be taken to curb the further spread of monkeypox. All primary contacts must be kept under strict observation and surveillance reports must be of the standard prescribed by WHO. All inbound travellers must be scrutinised at the international airports.

Dr. JAYASEKHARAN V.P.,
Payyanur, Kannur, Kerala

Women's power

India is off to a good start in the Commonwealth Games. But what makes it even better is that India's women athletes are setting the pace. Their successes are sure to inspire girls in India.

ALBIN BENNY,
Bengaluru

Recalling India's Antarctica activities

Having been left out of 1959's Antarctica Treaty, the country's maiden voyage in 1982 stunned the world

JAIRAM RAMESH

Need of the hour: India has been chartering ships from other countries until now and needs to address its lack of a polar research vessel. •REUTERS

Parliament has just passed the Indian Antarctic Bill, 2022 albeit raucously in the Rajya Sabha. It is an important step forward in our engagement with the continent which began way back in February 1956. It was then, at the instance of Jawaharlal Nehru and V.K. Krishna Menon, that India became the first country in the world to request for an item on the agenda of the eleventh United Nations General Assembly entitled "The Question of Antarctica" to 'ensure that the vast areas and its resources were used entirely for peaceful purposes and for general welfare'.

But India did not press the point further because it got caught up later in the year with the almost simultaneous crises in the Suez and Hungary and also because of resistance from countries like Argentina and Chile. But the Nehru-Menon initiative in which India's Permanent Representative at the UN Arthur Lall also played an important part did have one very tangible impact. Twelve countries who believed that they had a direct stake in Antarctica started discussions among themselves and on December 1, 1959 the Antarctica Treaty was signed in Washington DC.

Not surprisingly, since its moves at the UN had irked a number of countries including the USSR, India was neither involved nor invited. But in May 1958, India's Prime Minister had told Parliament: "We are not challenging anybody's rights there. But it has become important more specifically because of the possible experimentation of atomic weapons and the line, that the matter should be considered by the UN...the fact that Antarctica contains many very important minerals–especially atomic energy minerals–is one of the reasons why this area is attractive to various countries. We thought it would be desirable to have a discussion about this at the UN."

Subsequently, Antarctica faded from the Indian geopolitical gaze. The Treaty members worked on the development of the continent among themselves, inviting occasional criticism from other countries, including India, who were actually helpless to make any difference.

Indian expedition

But the morning of January 9, 1982, transformed the international discourse when news of India's first Antarctic expedition reaching its destination not only electrified India but stunned the world. Operation Gangotri, as it was christened by the Prime Minister, had been a hush-hush exercise started as soon as Indira Gandhi had returned to power two years earlier. She had appointed noted marine biologist Syed Zahoor Qasim as secretary of the newly-created Department of Environment in April 1981 and three months later had brought into existence a separate Department of Ocean Development.

The Prime Minister was well aware of the political impact a successful Indian expedition would have since India was not a member of the Antarctic Treaty and no other Asian country, including China, had a presence there. Rather tellingly and reflective of the mindset of members of the Treaty, the well-known British science magazine *New Scientist*, some days later, reported India's expedition under the headline 'Indians quietly invade Antarctica'.

Yet, beyond global geopolitics and strategic consideration, there was another impulse compelling a naturalist Prime Minister to back the expedition. Well aware of Antarctica's mineral wealth, Indira Gandhi was drawn equally–I would venture to suggest even more–to the ecological dimensions of Operation Gangotri: greater knowledge of the Indian Ocean and the monsoons, life in ice-bound regions and marine biodiversity. It was therefore no coincidence that the leader of the expedition was Qasim who had earlier served as the Director of the National Institute of Oceanography in Goa. C.P. Vohra, a member of the successful Indian expedition of 1965 to Mount Everest, was Qasim's deputy.

A second expedition led by one of India's top geologists V.K. Raina landed in Antarctica on December 10, 1982. Incidentally, it was Raina who challenged the very intellectually lazy and loose assertion of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that Himalayan glaciers would become extinct by 2035. It was his critique that forced the IPCC to revamp the manner in which it carried out peer reviews of climate science literature. Raina's point was limited to questioning such a precise date of extinction: he was not doubting, nor was the government of the day, the reality of the retreat of the preponderant majority of glaciers in the Himalayas that is having serious environmental impacts.

With two expeditions successfully completed within a span of 11 months, India finally became a member of the Antarctic Treaty in August 1983 and China followed in 1985. Today the Treaty has 46 members and has a Convention on Marine Living Resources and a Protocol on Environmental Protection as well.

More achievements follow

1984 saw two more striking Indian achievements: its first Antarctic team started wintering there from March 1, 1984 and a few months afterwards an unmanned Antarctic research base – named by the Prime Minister a few months before her assassination as Dakshin Gangotri – was established. Since then, India has set up two manned (an inappropriate word since women scientists have also been part of expeditions doing the country proud) research stations in Antarctica – Maitri in 1988 and Bharati in 2012. Forty expeditions to the continent have taken place.

The Bill passed by Parliament has been under discussion in the government for over five years at least. It is largely administrative in nature but nonetheless is a milestone. It provides a detailed legal framework for India's Antarctic activities that is consistent with its international treaty obligations.

The issue of a polar research vessel, however, still needs to be addressed immediately. So far, India has been chartering such ships from countries like Russia and Norway while China has two of its own. Of late, chartering has been presenting its own difficulties. A decision was indeed taken in October 2014 for India to have its own research ship with ice-breaking and other advanced technological capabilities but it remains unimplemented. Surely if fighter aircraft could be acquired from abroad giving a go-by to the Make-in-India policy, a research ship could also be so acquired.

The acquisition of a vessel on a permanent basis is a logical next step to the passage of the Bill as also the revamp of the quite old Maitri research station. The polar research vessel will also be required as India expands its association with and involvement in the Arctic as well. Its research station there called Himadri was inaugurated in July 2008 and five years later India got observer status at the eight-country Arctic Council.

Jairam Ramesh is a Member of Parliament & Chairman of the Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment, Forests & Climate Change

Tracing the Vice-President's stint as a parliamentarian

He served in the House for 19 years on both sides of the aisle

K.V. PRASAD

By Saturday, India will have a new Vice President. In the following week, it would bring to an end the long parliamentary journey of M. Venkaiah Naidu and his tenure as the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, the other role for the post in the Constitution.

Work done during the term of the outgoing Chairman and progress achieved by the House is documented at the end of every session. Mr. Naidu's term reflects on the progress of the legislative work; increased productivity at 70%; greater oversight of the work done by Parliamentary Committees; and a step-up in its primary role as a deliberative chamber.

Statistics show that in the five-year period of Mr. Naidu, the House held 261 sittings over 13 sessions, passing or returning 177 Bills including the abrogation of Article 370 with regard to Jammu and Kashmir, Triple Talaq, Transgender Persons and the now repealed contentious Farm Bills.

Chairman Naidu entered the office with the unique advantage of having served in the House for 19 years - as a member of the Union Council of Ministers including a decade-long stint in the Opposition. This across-the-aisle experience guided his work, providing him with an innate ability to understand and appreciate the compulsions of all members.

Continuity and change

This period was marked by both continuity and change. Chairman Naidu retained the practice of holding the Question Hour at 12 noon, a major Rule change effected by his predecessor M. Hamid Ansari. The changes suggested by the Rules Committee advanced the Zero Hour. Functioning of the Question Hour suggests that the shift had a positive effect and reduced the incidence of it being washed out. Early in his tenure, deciding on a complaint under the 10th Schedule, Mr. Naidu disqualified members Sharad Yadav and Ali Anwar Ansari of the Janata Dal (United). In disposing of the petition, he suggested presiding officers tasked to adjudicate such complaints should avoid a tendency to delay a decision.

Another significant step was to bring greater accountability to the Parliamentary Committees by monitoring its workings. Periodic reports on the duration of meetings held, attendance of its members, and studies undertaken sent a message of strong oversight by the Chair. In order to encourage members to speak in their preferred language, existing infrastructure was strengthened.

Drawing upon his vast parliamentary experience, he ordered a comprehensive study of the Secretariat with the aim of bringing about systemic improvement and making its work more transparent, accountable and subject to periodic scrutiny.

After extensive interactions with members and staff, the in-house panel came up with 130 recommendations. One path-breaking suggestion is to dedicate an hour in Parliament to discuss select reports of Committees. This move would result in the Houses evaluating the work done by its panels.

Unprecedented times

Chairman Naidu's tenure also witnessed an unprecedented situation of a world in the grip of a global health pandemic. The working of the Parliament came under strain with both the Houses evolving a common protocol to fulfil its constitutional obligation.

With a strong commitment to scrutiny, the Chairman, as a veteran parliamentarian, could have guided the Houses to usher changes in Rules allowing Committees and even the chambers to meet in a virtual and/or hybrid mode.

Just as shifting the Question Hour led to improving its efficacy, holding meetings at least of the Committees in a digital format should be a step in the right direction.

Another area where the Council of States could have taken a lead is expanding its institutional reach through social media. Rajya Sabha could have been a pioneer in this regard under Chairman Naidu who is well-versed with the media and its new avatar

Following its guidelines on the use of social media published a few years ago, the Inter-Parliamentary Union in its latest Global Parliamentary Report in collaboration with UNDP identified four trends parliaments should embrace to engage with citizens. These were growing reliance on digital tools; listening and not informing; visibility in the blizzard of information; growing public demand to influence decision making.

With its own Rules, Rajya Sabha could come up with a stand-alone policy and grant seamless access to people to this deliberative body discharging legislative obligations at its own pace.

K.V. Prasad is a senior journalist and former Fulbright-American Political Science Association Fellow in the U.S. Congress

STATE OF PLAY

A game of one-upmanship

Centre and State are in a bid to outperform each other with their Independence day celebrations

N. RAHUL

The celebration of the 75th anniversary of Independence is expected to be uniform across the country, but in Telangana, competitive politics seems to have taken over the occasion.

The ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) has drawn up plans for an event running parallel to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)–led Central government's *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav* one week before and one week after August 15.

The TRS government is preparing for its celebrations without having anything to do with the programmes of the Centre. It has virtually hijacked the '*Har ghar pe tiranga*' (a tricolour in every home) slogan of the BJP by ordering 1.20 crore national flags to be hoisted in as many households in the State.

Not to be left behind, the BJP has also decided to celebrate the 'Liberation Day' marking the accession of the erstwhile Hyderabad State into the Indian Union on September 17. The celebrations will commence on September 17 and end the same day next year, party secretary S. Prakash Reddy said.

Simultaneous programmes

Ironically, the TRS government had also launched the *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav* to coincide with the celebrations by the Central government on March 12 last year. The State government started a 75-week countdown to the country's 75th anniversary and planned to end the celebrations after a year on August 15, 2023, like the Centre.

The government sanctioned ₹10 crore for various events across the State, including a two-km run, a '*kavi sammelan*', theatre festival of different languages and regions and a photo exhibition at the State Art Gallery in Hyderabad with photographs of leaders of the Indian national movement including Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

The Telangana government has called off these celebrations in the face of the hostile Centre-State relations which were sparked by the financial sanctions against the State, TRS's loss in the prestigious byelection to the Huzurabad Assembly constituency, a stand-off over rice procurement for national pool, and more recently the threat of stopping national rural employment guarantee works. The BJP candidate at Huzurabad Eatala Rajender, who was a Minister in the TRS government until he quit the party, had thrown a direct challenge to Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao.

Relations sour

The relations between the TRS and the BJP soured after Mr. Rao ran a nationwide campaign against the Centre and Prime Minister Narendra Modi by meeting leaders in various States in the past few months. He avoided receiving Mr. Modi twice during his visit to the State. When Mr. Rao chaired a meeting recently to announce the two-week celebrations of 75 years of Independence by the State , it was obvious that he was taking the fight into the enemy camp.

The Chief Minister will inaugurate the programmes at Hitech city on August 8. The valedictory will be held with a rally at Lal Bahadur stadium on August 22. There will also be a beating retreat programme.

The BJP was yet to finalise its programmes for the Liberation Day but party sources said it will be held on a bigger scale than in the past.

A significant moral that binds both parties is that they should not let their ego come in the way of the Independence Day celebrations.

It is also binding on the TRS that it celebrate the Liberation Day in a befitting manner because it played a stellar role in the separate State for Telangana agitation.

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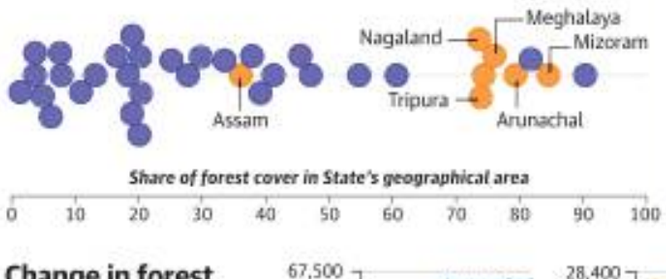
DATA POINT

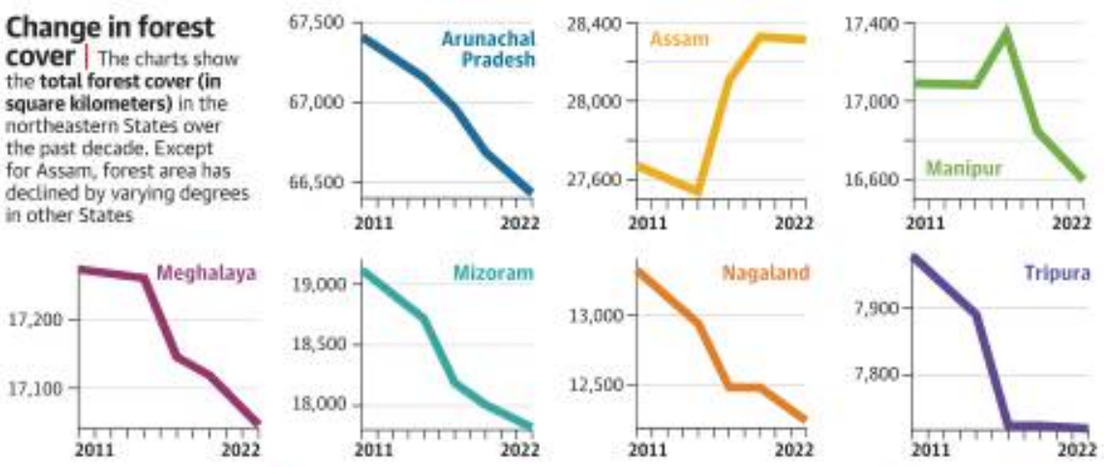
Falling forest cover in the northeast

In many ecologically sensitive northeastern States where more than 70% of the area is covered by forests, a substantial decline in forest area was recorded in the past decade. Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Assam recorded more than 1,000 hectares of forest land diverted for non-forest purposes in the past decade. Meanwhile, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram recorded the maximum increase in forest land encroachments over the past two decades among all Indian States. By **Jasmin Nihalani** and **Vignesh Radhakrishnan**

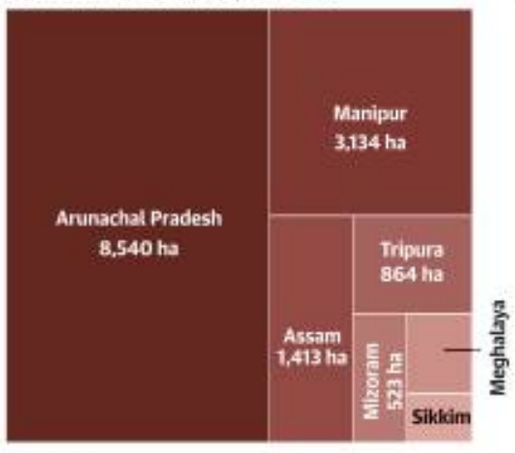
Forest cover | The chart depicts States' **forest cover as % of their geographical area**. Except for Assam, in the other northeastern States (●), more than 70% of the geographical area is under forest cover as of 2021



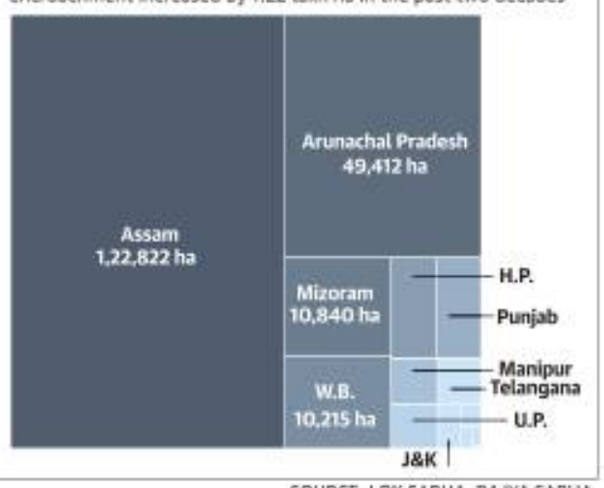
Change in forest cover | The charts show the **total forest cover (in square kilometers)** in the northeastern States over the past decade. Except for Assam, forest area has declined by varying degrees in other States



Forest land diverted | The chart shows the **forest land diverted (in hectares)** in northeastern States for non-forest use under the Forest Conservation Act over the past decade



Encroachment of forest land | The chart shows the **absolute increase in the encroachment of forest land (in hectares)** between 2002 and 2022. For instance, in Assam, forest encroachment increased by 1.22 lakh ha in the past two decades



SOURCE: LOK SABHA, RAJYA SABHA

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 3, 1972

Egypt and Libya to unite

Beirut, Aug. 2: Egypt and Libya announced tonight they have agreed to join in complete union - to form the biggest single State in Africa - as soon as possible. A communique broadcast by Cairo and Tripoli radios simultaneously said the two nations had agreed to establish "full unity in the shortest time possible and the strongest possible foundation." The plan will link one of Arab world's richest nations–Libya–with its most advanced-Egypt. The announcement said a joint political leadership will be established to draw up the merger plan. This will be referred to the constitutional organisations of the two countries and then put to popular vote. All this must be completed before September 1, 1973, according ot the plan agreed between President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and the Libyan head of the State Col. Muammar Gadafi in Benghazi, Libya after three days of talks. The joint Egyptian-Libyan leadership will meet for the first time on September 3 in Tripoli, capital of Libya. Today's meeting between the two leaders set up a number of joint committees to work out details for the merger.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 3, 1922

Indian Timbers

London, Aug. 1: Sir William Meyer gave a reception today at his offices to view Indian timber panelling and to inaugurate a permanent museum of Indian arts and handicrafts. The numerous guests included other high commissioners and their wives and many prominent Indian army officers. Mr. Alexander Howard who selected the woods received many congratulations of the striking and artistic effects of panelling furniture etc. A notable feature is staircase panelling of Indian silver grey wood bordered with cross bandings of Andaman marble wood and decorated with Indian white chuglam.

The outstanding feature, however, is Indian lanrelwood in the reception room on the front ground floor. The general tone of the room harmonises with the furniture of the Andaman koowood. Ground floor library in panelling and decorations and furniture is entirely of Andaman padauk. Sir William Meyer afterwards entertained the company to tea at Grosvener Hotel.

The rooms has previously been seen and much admired by Lord and Lady Peel, Mr. and Mrs. Montagu, Earl Winterton and others.

FROM PAGE ONE

Pelosi lands in Taiwan, China slams U.S.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken sought to distance the White House from the visit, underlining, as President Biden had also conveyed to his counterpart Xi Jinping in a phone call on July 28, that "Congress is an independent, coequal branch of government" and "the decision is entirely the speaker's".

He said if "China tries to create some kind of crisis or otherwise escalate tensions, that would be entirely on Beijing" and there was "precedent". The last visit by a House Speaker was, however, as far back as in 1997, although members of Congress have since visited.

China rejected that argument, saying "when the House Speaker, being the third-highest ranking figure in the U.S. government, flies on U.S. military aircraft and makes a provocative visit to the Taiwan region, it is by no means an unofficial action".

'Crossing red lines'

While China has blamed the U.S. of crossing "red lines", the visit has been welcomed in Taiwan, which has accused Beijing of trying to change the current status quo through a combination of military pressure and moves to isolate Taiwan internationally.

Economic measures may now follow. China, which is Taiwan's biggest trading partner, on Monday barred shipments from 100 Taiwanese exporters of products including seafood and honey.

For now, however, the rare high-level visit is being welcomed in the island of 23 million people.

Al-Qaeda chief killed in U.S. strike in Kabul

Taliban fighters in Kabul following the killing of al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri in a U.S. strike. • REUTERS

Early Tuesday in Kabul, however, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid tweeted that an "aerial attack" was carried out on a residence in the Sherpur area of the city.

"The nature of the incident was not revealed at first. The security and intelligence agencies of the Islamic Emirate investigated the incident and found in their preliminary investigations that the attack was carried out by American drones," his tweet said.

'Rupee not collapsing, says Finance Minister

"I want the House to take cognisance of Indian rupee's performance versus others such as the U.K. pound and contextualise its performance versus the U.S. dollar particularly because of the various steps being taken by the U.S. Fed," she said.

Rupee during UPA govt.

Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said that the rupee had fallen by 10% to 12% in some years during the UPA regime from 2004 to 2014, compared with a maximum fall of 7.8% in a single year under the current administration's eight-year tenure since 2014.

In a written response, the junior finance minister also attributed global factors such as the Russia-Ukraine war, soaring crude oil prices and tightening of global financial conditions as the cause for the depreciation of the rupee against the U.S. dollar.

"However, the Indian rupee has strengthened against major currencies such as the British pound, the Japanese yen and the euro," he added.

Congress remarks

When Congress MP Pramod Tiwari referred to remarks made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2013 (in his tenure as Gujarat Chief Minister) on the fall of the rupee leading to a drop in the country's stature, Ms. Sitharaman said India's economy had become one of the fragile five economies at the time.

"When the then Gujarat CM and current PM had given statements about the Indian currency in 2013, that was because India's situation was quite serious on all other parameters as well. The economy had become one of the fragile five.... The economy had double digit inflation for 22 months and the Indian economy had reached such a serious situation just because of the taper tantrum," she pointed out.

"Today, there is pandemic, recovery, second wave, Omicron, Russia-Ukraine war, the whole world's supply chain is disrupted, India's currency is still staying strong," Ms. Sitharaman concluded.

On Tuesday, as per provisional data, the rupee rose 41 paise to close at 78.65 against the dollar, continuing to recover from the low of 80 to the dollar it had hit a couple of weeks ago.

Central officials monitoring impact of Zawahiri's killing

18 Indians are known to have joined al-Qaeda between 2012 and 2015, say police

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

A day after the United States announced that al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri had been killed in a drone strike in Kabul on July 30, Indian government officials on Tuesday said they were assessing its impact in India.

Unlike other terror groups, al-Qaeda is not an organisation-led group but is driven by a strong ideology, independent of territorial limits, an official said.

There are only 18 Indians known to have joined al-Qaeda between 2012 and 2015, said a Delhi Police official, adding that the number of persons who owed allegiance to the group was much bigger.

Five of them are in prison, while the others are absconding. G.P Singh, Special Director-General of Police, Assam, told *The Hindu* that since February, the police had arrested 22 members affiliated to the global terror group or were inspired by its ideology.

Mr. Singh said that over the past two years, surveillance had been mounted in Assam following reports that the Bangladesh-based Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT), affiliated to al-Qaeda, was trying to scout for recruits.

"Their interrogation revealed that they were inspired by Zawahiri. However, killing of a leader always lowers the morale of the cadre and sympathisers. We are sure that we will be able to wipe out the network from Assam in the next two years," Mr. Singh said.

In 2014, Zawahiri, in a video, announced the creation of al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) to be led by an Indian Maulana, Asim Umar, who was later identified as Uttar Pradesh resident Sanaul Haq.

Haq is said to have been killed in a drone strike in Afghanistan a few years ago, but there is no confirmation yet.

In the video, Zawahiri described the formation of the AQIS as glad tidings for Muslims "in Burma [Myanmar], Bangladesh, Assam, Gujarat, Ahmedabad, and Kashmir", adding that the new wing would rescue Muslims there from injustice and oppression.

A senior Home Ministry official said that according to recent inputs the group was trying to rebuild al-Qaeda's organisational machinery in India. As recent as June 8, the AQIS threatened that its members would carry out attacks in India in the backdrop of the controversial statements by two BJP leaders against Prophet Muhammed. The AQIS, in a statement, called for attacks in Delhi, Mumbai, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat.

In 2015, a note generated by an intelligence agency said that the AQIS "has been attempting to recruit gullible Muslim youth from Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh,Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala and Delhi", and that the group planned to target BJP offices, commercial, tourist, religious, aviation and railway infrastructure in various States as well as unsecured waterfronts.

The Home Ministry official said that al-Qaeda cadre in India shifting allegiance to the Islamic State was also a possibility. "Considering the field operational capabilities of Islamic State in Khorasan Province (ISKP) to mount spectacular attacks, any possible tilt from AQ ranks to IS warrants a serious attention," the official said.

Mission Accomplished: U.S. President Joe Biden meeting the national security team. • AFP

'World looks at Tricolour with respect'

Amit Shah launches the *Tiranga* anthem

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had worked to improve India's standing in the world, and today the world looked at India and the national flag with respect, Home Minister Amit Shah said on Tuesday.

Mr. Shah launched the "*Tiranga*" anthem and released a commemorative postage stamp to mark the birth anniversary of Pingali Venkayya, who designed the Tricolour, as a part of the *Har Ghar Tiranga* campaign organised by the Culture Ministry. The campaign promotes the hoisting of the national flag in all households from August 13 to 15 to mark 75 years of Independence.

"Today the world looks at India and its national flag with respect. From 2014 till 2022, our dear Prime Minister Narendra Modi has increased India's respect in the whole world. Today if there is any problem in the world, till India's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi does not make a statement, the world does not decide its stance on the problem. Lakhs and lakhs of people gave their sacrifice to see this day," Mr. Shah said.

'Woken up from sleep'

Addressing the youth of the country, Mr. Shah said the *Har Ghar Tiranga* campaign was theirs. He asked everyone to hoist the Tricolour at home to send the message that India had "woken up from sleep" and was on the way to become "*mahaan*" (great). He asked everyone to change their social media display pictures to the Tricolour from Tuesday.

In tribute: Amit Shah releases a commemorative postal stamp honouring Pingali Venkayya during 'Tiranga Utsav'. • PTI

India is highest priority: Maldives President

The two countries sign a cybersecurity pact to promote closer cooperation, exchange of information

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

The Maldives on Tuesday signed a cybersecurity agreement with India as both sides affirmed bilateral will to strengthen ties to take on "transnational crimes and terrorism" in the Indian Ocean region.

Addressing the media after the signing of six agreements, President Ibrahim 'Ibu' Solih expressed gratitude to India for the help extended to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and for providing a landing craft and utility vehicles to the Maldives National Defence Force.

"The MoU signed today on cybersecurity aims to promote closer cooperation and exchange of information pertaining to cybersecurity in accordance to our domestic laws, rules and regulation and based on equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit," Mr. Solih said.

Before that, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mr. Solih participated remotely in the pouring of the first concrete of the Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP) that would include a 6.74-km bridge and the causeway linking capital Male with the neighbouring islands.

The $500-million project is being financed by India. India on Tuesday also extended a $100- million new Line of Credit to finance infrastructure projects in the Maldives.

In his remarks, Mr. Solih referred to India as the "highest priority" of the Maldives and said, "Maldives-India relation, goes beyond diplomacy. Our values, our cultures and our histories are intertwined, making it a traditional relationship. Our centuries-old relationship is grown with political trust, economic cooperation and coherent strategic policies between our two countries."

In his remarks, Mr. Modi referred to the threats of terrorism and transnational crime and said that he and Mr. Solih took an "overview" of all the factors in the bilateral relation.

India's gift to Maldives

To strengthen Maldivian maritime capacity, India has announced the gifting of a second landing assault craft to the Maldives National Defence Force. Mr. Solih thanked India for the gift of 24 utility vehicles to the National Defence Force. Maldives was one of the first recipients of the Covishield vaccine produced by the Serum Institute of India (SII) and the visiting dignitary acknowledged the support that his country received in combating the pandemic from India.

Joining hands: Narendra Modi and Ibu Solih during an event at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on Tuesday. • PTI

Govt. gets SC notice on ED chief's tenure

Amendments to CVC Act questioned

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought the government's response on petitions challenging the "piecemeal" tenure extensions given to Enforcement Directorate (ED) Director Sanjay Kumar Mishra.

The petitions filed by Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala, Mahua Moitra of the Trinamool Congress, Jaya Thakur, social activist and general secretary of the Madhya Pradesh Congress Mahila Committee, have sought the quashing of the Government Order of November 2021 extending Mr. Mishra's tenure by a year.

Appearing before a Bench led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, the petitioners have questioned the legality of amendments made to the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) Act by way of promulgation of an Ordinance last November. This Ordinance, which allows extensions up to five years for the ED Director, paved the way for the government to stretch Mr. Mishra's tenure by a year till November 2022. The Ordinance, which became an Act in December, was promulgated within days of a Supreme Court order barring any further extensions to Mr. Mishra, the petitioners contended.

'Piecemeal extensions'

"Piecemeal extensions of tenure like this takes away the fixity of tenure, which is the hallmark of independence," senior advocate A.M. Singhvi contended for the petitioners.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, also for the petitioners, submitted that Mr. Mishra is going to finish his fourth year as the ED Director and may also get another year's extension in November 2022.

On a question from the Bench about the selection process for the ED Director, he submitted that the selection committee was composed entirely of members of the executive without any "external" authorities like the Chief Justice of India as in the case of the selection of the CBI Director. "The selection process gives complete unfettered discretion to the executive," Mr. Singhvi said.

Sanjay Kumar Mishra

Mr. Sankaranarayanan said the apex court order that Mr. Mishra should not be given any further extension at the top of the specialised Central agency which investigates sensitive cases under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act came on September 8, 2021.

The ordinance came on November 14 last year, just four days before Mr. Mishra's tenure was going to end on November 18. Saket Gokhale, another petitioner, argued that Mr. Mishra had not filed the returns of his moveable and immovable property for five years. "On the first instance itself he is disqualified," Mr. Gokhale's lawyer submitted.

"The official memorandum of the Department of Personnel and Training requires officials to file their returns of moveable and immovable property annually, by January 1 itself every year. They are filed in the department and uploaded on the website," the lawyer said. Not doing so would attract disciplinary action and the official would also not be considered for promotion, he noted. "This gentleman has not filed for five years and is still being promoted and given extensions... Let the government say how it wants to respect its own official memorandum," he challenged.

Islam prayer row: school staff booked

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KANPUR

The police booked the administration of a private school in Kanpur district under Sections of the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act after some parents and Hindu right-wing groups objected to children "being forced" to recite the *Kalma* (Islamic verses) during the morning prayers, officials said on Tuesday. Enraged parents on Monday staged protests outside the institution, and the school premises were later purified with *gangajal*.

The school, which says it holds *Sarva Dharma Prarthna*, has been shut since the incident took place to ensure that no harm happens to the students.

Sumeet Makhija, secretary of the school, told *The Hindu* that the recitation of prayers was stopped immediately after the protest by parents and right-wing groups, but the situation escalated.

"The school has been reciting the *Gayatri Mantra* and the *Gurubani* along with the Islamic verses during the morning assembly for 18 years. No parent has ever complained. One fine day, even those whose children have been studying here for six or seven years started making a fuss about it," he added.

The school, which has been directed to submit its affiliation-related documents to the District Education Department, has now decided to go with only the National Anthem.

SC quashes Jharkhand's 100% local reservation

HC had termed move 'impermissible'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday quashed the Jharkhand government's 2016 decision to grant 100% reservation to local people of 13 Scheduled Areas in public jobs and upheld a High Court decision that had termed the government decision "discriminatory and impermissible". The top court said "the citizens have equal rights, and the total exclusion of others by creating an opportunity for one class is not contemplated by the founding fathers of the Constitution of India".

A Bench of Justices M.R. Shah and B.V. Nagarathana said, "In view of the above discussion and for the reasons stated above, we uphold the common impugned judgment and order passed by the High Court declaring the impugned Notification/Order dated July 14, 2016 as unconstitutional and *ultra vires* Articles 14, 16(2), 16(3) and 35(ai) of the Constitution of India."

In 2016, the government had invited applications for the posts of Trained Graduate Teacher in government schools, with 100% reservation for local candidates/residents of 13 Scheduled Areas.

Centre writes to Mamata over SSC scam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Tuesday wrote to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, expressing grave concern over the alleged irregularities in teachers' recruitment and asking her to take corrective action. It comes against the backdrop of an investigation into the alleged school job scam. "A large number of representations received from various teacher organisations regarding irregularities in the teacher recruitment is a matter of grave concern," the letter read.

Will respond to Delhi HC's observation: Cong.

Smriti Irani had filed defamation suit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Tuesday said the party will respond to every observation made by the Delhi High Court in its order in a defamation case filed by Union Minister Smriti Irani against him and two other leaders. On July 29, the court issued summons to the three Congress leaders on a civil defamation suit filed by Ms. Irani, who accused them of falsely alleging that her daughter ran an illegal bar in Goa.

"Court has given us four weeks to reply and we'll ensure each and every one of the observations in the order are responded to. We'll present a true and factual account of the stated events," he said. The court on Monday uploaded the order on its website where it held that Ms. Irani and her daughter were neither owners of the restaurant-cum-bar nor a licence was issued in their favour. The court said the statements by the Congress leaders seemed to be "bogus with malicious intent". The court noted that even the show-cause notice issued by the Government of Goa to the "Silly Souls Café and Bar" was not addressed to them.

Popular film producers in T.N. come under I-T scanner

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI/MADURAI

The Income Tax Department on Tuesday knocked at the doors of popular producers in the Tamil film industry, including Anbu Chezhian, who is also a leading film financier. The sleuths searched the offices and residential properties of the producers.

"Properties belonging to eight producers were searched. Those under the scanner include producer and distributor Kalaipuli S. Thanu, S.R. Prabhu of Dream Warrior Pictures and producer K.E. Gananvel Raja," said a source in the Department's Investigation Wing. "Separate WhatsApp groups were formed among the taxmen for each producer," another source said.

A Madurai police officer said I-T Department officials neither informed them about the search nor sought protection from them.

Not my money: Trinamool leader's aide

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Former Trinamool Congress leader Partha Chatterjee's close aide Arpita Mukherjee on Tuesday said that money seized by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) at her properties was kept without her knowledge.

"This is not my money. The money was kept in my absence and without my knowledge," Ms. Mukherjee told presspersons outside a health facility where she was taken for a medical check-up.

On Sunday, former Minister Partha Chatterjee said that the money seized by the ED was not his money.

On July 22 and 28, the ED seized ₹50 crore in cash and several kilograms of gold from two properties of Ms. Mukherjee in connection with the investigation in the School Service Commission (SSC) recruitment scam. The former Minister and his aide were arrested by the ED on July 23.

Earlier in the day, when the former Minister was taken to a city hospital for a medical check-up, a woman hurled her shoe at him. The shoe, however, missed Mr. Chatterjee.

Modi government renews push to hold dialogue with Muslims

It is now banking on the Sufi orders to reach out to the community

ZIYA US SALAM
NEW DELHI

The Narendra Modi government has opened a new channel of communication with the Muslim community. Steering away from the days of cultivating Imam Bukhari and various Muslim Jamaats, the government is now banking on the well-entrenched Sufi orders for a meaningful dialogue with the largest minority.

The move follows widespread criticism of the government for not including a single Muslim member in the Cabinet following the end of the Rajya Sabha term of Minorities Affair Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi earlier this month.

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval attended a multi-religion meeting organised by the All India Sufi Sajjadanashin Council (AISSC) in New Delhi wherein he cautioned that "some people try to create animosity in the name of religion that adversely affects the entire country and also has ramifications internationally", and urged religious leaders to raise their voice against bigotry.

Bonds of faith: Ajit Doval at a multi-religion meet organised by Sufis in New Delhi on July 30. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

"We have to work together and make every religious body feel part of India," he said. Among the participants were Syed Salman Nadvi, a noted Islamic scholar, Umar Ahmed Ilyasi, chief of the All India Imams Organisation, and Kalbe Jawad, a Shia cleric who recently met Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adiyanath at his residence in Lucknow. He had earlier hailed the Chief Minister's fight against corruption in the State.

There was no representative of the Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind, the Jamaat-e-Islami, the Tablighi Jamaat and the All India Majlis-e-Mushawarrat at the meet.

The absence of any representative from these outfits surprised many. More so because these organisations had been taken into confidence by the Modi government ahead of the Supreme Court's Babri Masjid verdict in November 2019.

Informal meetings

In recent times, the top leaders of the Jamiat had had parleys with RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, besides having informal meetings with Mr. Doval and others. The non-invitation to the Tablighi Jamaat did not come as a surprise as the body is largely reclusive and non-political.

However, its top leadership had been in the good books of the government until the COVID-19 outbreak in March 2020, when the Tablighi Jamaat was initially held responsible for the outbreak of the disease.

Mr. Doval's presence at the meet had the desired response, with the conference passing a resolution seeking a ban on the Popular Front of India for pursuing "divisive agenda".

"The need of the hour is to ban radical organisations, if there is evidence against them," said Syed Naseeruddin Chishti, chairman, AISSC. The meet also passed a resolution against targeting any gods, goddesses or prophets by anyone and called for such individuals to be dealt with in accordance with the law of the country.

It aims to take forward the initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he first addressed a global Sufi meet in New Delhi in 2016 where he stated, "It is this spirit of Sufism, the love for their country and the pride in their nation that define the Muslims in India. They are shaped by the values of the Islamic heritage of India. It upholds the highest ideals of Islam and has always rejected the forces of terrorism and extremism."

ED conducts searches in *National Herald* case

Ploy to divert attention from key issues, says Congress

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday searched multiple locations in connection with the *National Herald* case, days after the agency recorded the statements of Congress chief Sonia Gandhi and her son Rahul Gandhi.

The searches triggered a protest by the Congress workers outside the *National Herald* headquarters in Delhi.

Reacting to the searches, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh tweeted: "The raids on Herald House, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg are a part of the continued attack against India's principal opposition - Indian National Congress. We strongly condemn this vendetta politics against those who speak up against the Modi Govt. You cannot silence us!"

Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge said that an attempt was being made to create an "atmosphere of fear". However, he said, the Congress workers would not be deterred by such measures. Congress MP Karti Chidambaram claimed that the ED had become a "weapon of mass destruction" and would be known as the "hatchet agency" of the government.

Police detain a Congress worker during a protest against searches by the ED on Tuesday. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

At a Congress press conference, party spokesperson Supriya Shrinate said that the search on National Herald was a ploy to divert attention from price rise and unemployment.

"In Independent India, there is perhaps no other government and no other place where politics has sunk to this rock bottom. To settle petty personal scores, to intimidate India's Opposition, the Modi government is doing exactly what the British did during the freedom struggle. During the freedom struggle, the British had banned and had raided National Herald, that's exactly what the Modi government is doing," Ms. Shrinate said.

The ED's money laundering probe is related to a private complaint filed by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy in the court alleging that Young Indian paid only ₹50 lakh to acquire the rights to recover a ₹90.25-crore debt that the Associated Journals Limited owed to the Congress.

Ms. Gandhi and her son owned 38% shares each in the not-for-profit company, Young Indian.

No one is denying price rise, efforts on to control it, says FM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Replying to a short duration discussion on the "rising prices of essential items" in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the Centre was not denying the fact that there was price rise. She said the Centre was taking constant efforts to check prices of essential items.

"We will look at the numbers [on economy] and also at the ground situation. We are not running away," she said, adding that the Centre was making efforts to keep the inflation level at 7%. "Ideally it should be below 6%," she noted.

The Finance Minister said the Opposition was trying to build a narrative that the poor person was not being given anything from the cess and duties collected by the Centre.

> **We will look at the numbers [on economy] and also at the ground situation. We are not running away**
>
> NIRMALA SITHARAMAN
> Finance Minister

Countering the Opposition's allegation that cess and additional taxes on petrol and diesel were not shared with the States, she said the Centre collected ₹3.77 lakh crore as cess and ₹3.93 lakh crore had been utilised through States. "It goes to the States promptly. Centre does not sit on it. Cess collected, cess utilised. It is a misconception that cess is not shared," she said and added that total flow of funds to the States had increased close to 15%. "14.8% average resource growth in States after the GST," the Minister said. Earlier, initiating the debate, CPI(M) leader Elamaram Kareem said there was no unanimous decision at the GST Council on the tax on pre-packed items as Kerala and some other States ruled by non-BJP parties had opposed it.

The BJP's Prakash Javadekar said all countries in the world suffer from inflation.

"But no country has given free ration as we did," he said.

Congress MP Shaktisinh Gohil said people were fed up with the price rise. He said the Centre collected ₹27 lakh crore through additional cess and duties on petrol and diesel and ₹98,000 crore was used to pay for oil bonds.

DMK MP Tiruchi Siva said consumption of rural households had fallen and profits of corporate houses had increased.

LS sees war of words on farm loans

Speaker says advances made under Kisan Credit Card scheme not written off

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Members of Opposition parties argued with Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday over the issue of farm loan waivers, prompting Speaker Om Birla to intervene and assert that advances under the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme are never written off.

Asking a supplementary question on the KCC scheme, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) member Supriya Sule asked Minister of State L. Murugan to reply in 'yes or no' terms on whether the government has any plans to waive off the loans given to farmers under the scheme.

Stepping in, Mr. Rupala said it was for the first time that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has extended the scheme to fishermen and dairy farmers.

Disquiet in the House: Opposition MPs making a point in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. • PTI

The main aim is to provide small farmers institutional credit up to ₹1.6 lakh without any collateral, he said, adding that if a farmer repays the loan promptly, he or she would get a 3% interest subvention from the Central government and some State governments provide it too.

Ms. Sule and other Opposition members then charged that the Minister was not giving the answer to the specific question on loan waiver.

The Speaker tried to calm them down by saying that as per his knowledge, loans given under the KCC are never waived off.

Earlier, DMK members protested strongly when Mr. Murugan said the Modi government has been pursuing welfare schemes as per the BJP election manifesto while some political parties and their State governments are not doing so.

This remark prompted DMK MPs, led by their leader T.R. Baalu, to protest as the Minister hails from Tamil Nadu. Mr. Baalu accused the Minister of playing politics rather than properly replying to a bonafide question related to fishermen.

Mr. Birla then told the DMK members that the Minister has neither named any political party nor any State for them to get offended.

The Question Hour witnessed protests from the Trinamool members when Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Pratima Bhoumik, responding to another query, said Bengal Ministers "don't take their calls even if they are called 10 times".

Bengal police seize cash

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of West Bengal police on Tuesday seized more cash in connection with the arrest of three Jharkhand MLAs. Cash amounting to ₹3.31 lakh and hundreds of silver coins were recovered.

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Executive Engineer (C), Postal Civil Division, Thiruvananthapuram invites on behalf of the President of India, online percentage rate tenders for the following work.

NIT No.29/EE-TVM/22-23.

Name of work : Construction of Post Office Building at Kunnicode, Pathanamthitta Division.

Estimated Cost: Rs. 63,79,487/- (Civil: Rs. 58,37,468/- + Elect: Rs.5,42,019/-)

Earnest Money: Rs. 1,27,590/-

Period of completion: 8 months

Last date and time of submission of bid: 10.08.2022 upto 11.00 hrs.

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website **https://dopcivil.euniwizarde.com**

IN BRIEF

Minister claims he was offered bribe in RS polls

JAIPUR

Rajasthan's Minister of State for Soldiers' Welfare Rajendra Gudha has created a flutter in the political circles here after he claimed that he was offered a bribe of ₹25 crore for voting in favour of a particular candidate in the Rajya Sabha elections, which held in June this year. Mr. Gudha did not refer to any party or leader while making the claim. Mr. Gudha made the allegation at an event organised at a private school in his Assembly constituency Udaipurwati, Jhunjhunu district on Monday.

AAP releases first list of 10 candidates in Gujarat

AHMEDABAD

Ahead of the Assembly polls in Gujarat, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) became the first political party to release names of its candidates for 10 seats on Tuesday. The party has released the first list of 10 candidates out of a total of 182 constituencies in the State for the upcoming Assembly elections due to be held in December this year. The AAP is working to make inroads in the political landscape of Gujarat and wants to be the main challenger of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the State.

Wildlife Protection Bill gets approval from Lok Sabha

JACOB KOSHY
DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Tuesday, passed the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Bill, with no significant modifications to the version of the Bill presented in the House for discussion. A nearly five-hour discussion saw parliamentarians across party lines discuss and suggest amendments to the Bill, but none of these made their way to the final version of the Bill, that was passed by the House.

The key thrust of the Bill is to make Indian law compatible with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). There were 50 amendments to the Act proposed in the Bill. CITES was signed in Washington D.C. on March 3, 1973, and later amended in 1979 to trade plant and animal specimens with other governments, without threatening the survival of the species.

The Wild Life (Protection) Bill, which was introduced in the Lok Sabha in the 2021 Winter session, was sent to a Standing Committee for discussion and amendments. Following four months of deliberation, in April this year, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment, Forests & Climate Change submitted its report on the proposed Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill.

PSU recruitment, changes to Mines Act discussed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Concerns over changes in recruitment policies of public sector undertakings and proposed changes to the Mines and Mineral (Regulation and Development) Act were some of the key issues that were raised in the Lok Sabha during the Zero Hour on Tuesday.

DMK leader T.R. Baalu raised the issue of recruitment by Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) based on Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) scores. Mr. Baalu claimed that NLC was in violation of social justice and reservation policies. "GATE is only to select graduates for post-graduate courses in engineering and technology streams," he said.

Revolutionary Socialist Party member N.K. Premachandran asked the government withdraw the proposed changes to the Mines and Mineral (Regulation and Development) Act that would allow private sector companies to mine beach sand minerals.

He said as per the current law, only State-run companies are allowed to mine beach sand minerals but after the changes, private companies too would mine them and that could have national security implications.

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
SPECIAL BUILDINGS DIVISION-II PWD, PUDUCHERRY

No.12/PW/SBD-II/DB/Tender/2022-23 dated 02.08.2022

PRESS NOTICE FOR e-Tender

On behalf of the President of India e-Tenders are invited by the Executive Engineer, Special Buildings Division-II, Public Works Department, Puducherry for ***"Construction of two buildings accommodating 216 Nos of tenements (stilt + 12 floors in each) by adopting precast technology at Kumaragurupallam in Raj Bhavan constituency, Puducherry under Smart City Project Housing Sector (Second Call).***

Sub Work-1: Building portion including pile foundation, internal water supply, sanitary installations, drainage and development works like roads, storm water drains, external water supply and external sewage system.

Sub Work-2: Providing internal electrical installations, fire fighting system, lifts, DG set, substation work" at estimate cost put to tender (Composite) of Rs.41,35,82,521/- (inclusive of GST). The Tender Notification/ Press Notice is published in the website **http://eprocure.gov.in/epublish.** The NIT & other related documents will be available in the website **https://pudutenders.gov.in.** from 04.08.2022.

No. 210/DIPIAD(Press)/2022-23 **Executive Engineer**

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C)
IDCO, IDCO TOWERS, JANPATH, BHUBANESWAR - 751022

Tender Call Notice No. IDCO/H.O./P&C/EST/E-1800/01/2021/ 19432 Dated : 29.07.2022

NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT

1. Name of the Work : Up-gradation of Industrial Estate, Autonagar, Ganjam, Odisha under Micro & Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP) Scheme.
2. Estimated Cost : Rs.387.53 lakh (Approx.)
3. Period of Completion : 06 (Six) Calendar Months.
4. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid ID/Tender reference No.	Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding	
1	2	3	4
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, IDCO Towers, Bhubaneswar.	Bid ID /Tender Reference No. P&C/EST/E-34/2022-23	06.08.2022 at 17.00 Hrs.	22.08.2022 up to 17.00 Hrs.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal, **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** and Corrigendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can only be seen in the e-Procurement portal **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** and **www.idco.in.**

CAD-1312 Sd/- Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar

DIPR-14003/11/0066/2223

TIRUPATI SMART CITY CORPORATION LIMITED,
C/o Tirupati Municipal Corporation
13-29-M9-1-00, Tilak Road, East Tirupati-517501.
Chittoor Dist., A.P., India., Email:tsccltirupati@gmail.com

Managing Director, Tirupati Smart City Corporation Limited, Tirupati invites Tenders on e-Procurement platform from the **"eligible contractors"** for the following work.

NIT Number:TSCCL/NIT/62, Dated:02-08-2022

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

IFB No.:	Name of the work	ECV (In INR)
02/22-23/Smart City/TO.	Tender Document for "Construction of Multi-Level Car parking with Multiplex (Basement+7 Upper Floors) Building including Defect Liability Period (DLP) of 2 Years" under Implementation of Smart City Mission in Tirupati-Tender on LS rte Non-Engineering Procurement and Construction (Non-EPC)	Rs. 37,33,19,065/-

Tirupati Smart City Corporation Limited, Tirupati invites online bids from interested and eligible bidders to participate for e-procurement vide IF Bo.02/22-23/Smart City/TO. Bidders are advised to visit e-procurement market place at **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in** from **08-08-2022** to download the tender document and detailed instructions. For any assistance regarding participation in the e-tender contact, Superintending Engineer, **e-mail:tsccltirupati@gmail.com.** The duly completed documents have to submit tender on online and that only be considered.

All other details including any extension, clarifications, amendments, corrigendum, addendum etc., will be uploaded on the above -mentioned website only and shall not be published in any other sources.

The TSCCL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender offers in part or full without assigning any reasons thereof.

Sd/- Ms.ANUPAMA ANJALI, I.A.S.,
CEO & Managing Director, Tirupati Smart City Corporation Limited, Tirupati.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
ELECTRICAL (TRD) BRANCH, TIRUCHCHIRAPPALLI DIVISION
TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager, Traction Distribution, Southern Railway, Tiruchchirappalli - 620001 invites online E-tenders from prospective tenderers / bidders for the following work.

1	Tender Number	TPJ-TRD-2022-2023-03
2	Name of work	TPJ Division - Outsourcing of PSI & OHE (Non-Core) Maintenance Activities For Two Years
3	Approximate value of tender	₹ 4,14,34,614.60
4	Cost of tender booklet	₹ 11,200/-
5	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	₹ 3,57,200/-
6	Date & Time of Bidding	15.08.2022 to 15:00 Hours on 29.08.2022
7	Date & Time of Tender Opening	After 15:00 Hours on 29.08.2022
8	Period of completion	24 Months
9	Period of validity of offer	81 days from the date of tender opening

NOTE : 1) The prospective tenderers/bidders are requested to register themselves with IREPS (Indian Railway Electronic Procurement System), if not done already, for participating in E-Tenders, Registration form is available on IREPS site (Quick link New Vendors/Contractors (E-Tender). 2) Contractors/Bidders are requested to procure Digital Signing Certificate (DSC) Class III or appropriate from Govt. of India, authorized Certifying authority (CCA-Controller of Certifying Authority) for participating in E-Tender & to log into IREPS. 3) Payment of Tender Document Cost and EMD (if any) in respect of e-tendering, should be done through net banking or payment gateway only (online payment). Tenders received without tender document cost shall be rejected. 4) Kindly log on to http://www.ireps.gov.in for complete details, terms and conditions of the above tender and details of bid submission and the on line bids are required to be digitally signed. The tenderers are advised to refer to the documents uploaded. 5) All Addendum/Corrigendum, Time extension, clarifications, etc. will be uploaded in the website only and will not be published separately in Newspapers. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated. 6. Tenderers need not be present in the office for tender opening as they can watch the status of opened tenders, on line through IREPS.

DIVISIONAL RAILWAY MANAGER,
Electrical Traction Distribution,Tiruchchirappalli

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UAE asked to intensify exit screening

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India has now sought more intensified efforts by the UAE to stop people with monkeypox symptoms from boarding flights and travelling.

Of the positive cases in India, three who arrived from the United Arab Emirates had been exhibiting symptoms suggestive of monkeypox disease before they arrived in India, the Health Ministry said in its communication to the UAE.

Joint Secretary Lav Agarwal, in its letter to Hussain Abdul Rahman Al Rand, Executive Director and International Health Regulations focal point, UAE, sought further intensified exit screening so as to ensure that persons exhibiting symptoms are not allowed to board flights.

Two more monkeypox cases confirmed

Total number rises to eight; strict surveillance and contact tracking are on, Minister tells Rajya Sabha

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday that India had eight confirmed cases of monkeypox and the country had initiated strict surveillance and contact tracking.

"The disease is not new and [there is] nothing to panic about," he said.

Kerala reported five cases and Delhi three, with both reporting one new case each on the day.

The virus strain, the Minister said, has been isolated by the Indian Council of Medical Research, which has also floated an expression of interest for development of a vaccine and diagnostics kits. The World Health Organization (WHO) is not currently recommending mass vaccination.

Limited supply: A vaccine for monkeypox was recently approved by some countries, but supplies are limited. • AFP

A senior Health Ministry official said that the task force constituted by the Union government on monkeypox would take a call on vaccinating close contacts of those who had tested positive. However, as of now, there are no specific plans to vaccinate any segment of the population.

Elaborating on the availability of a vaccine for monkeypox, Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director, Southeast Asia, WHO, said it would take some time to fully assess what vaccines were available and how they could be used to the greatest effect.

Smallpox vaccine the key

"There is a vaccine for monkeypox recently approved by some countries for which supplies are limited. Some countries may hold smallpox vaccine products, which could be considered for use according to national guidance," Dr. Singh said.

Pragya D. Yadav from the Maximum Containment Laboratory of the ICMR-National Institute of Virology, Pune, pointed out that India currently did not have a smallpox vaccine.

Many years of research have led to development of new and safer (second and third generation) vaccines for smallpox, some of which may be useful for monkeypox. One of these vaccines has been approved for monkeypox.

This vaccine is based on a strain of vaccinia virus (known generically as modified vaccinia Ankara Bavarian Nordic strain, or MVA-BN). This vaccine has been approved for prevention of monkeypox in Canada and the U.S., Dr. Singh said.

Lesson from COVID-19

Mr. Mandaviya said that India was taking a step-by-step approach and implementing the best of the learnings gained from fighting the novel coronavirus.

"When cases started appearing in the world, India had already started preparations. Before the first case in Kerala, we had issued guidelines to all the States. We have written to the governments at the international level that the screening report of the travellers should also be sent to us," the Minister told the Rajya Sabha.

ICMR treatment manual out on website, app

Effort to offer uniform treatment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) on Tuesday made available its Standard Treatment Workflows (STWs) in three volumes, containing 11 specialties with 52 diseases, on its website and through a mobile application to help physicians in far-flung areas access the document.

The document has been developed by subject experts and clinicians.

The National Health Authority has recommended uniform treatment at different hospitals and also for bill claims, Lokesh Sharma, a senior scientist at the ICMR, said.

He said the document could be used as a reference for primary, secondary and tertiary care.

"These STWs provide systematic treatment guidelines of a specific disease. It provides guidance such as when to refer a patient to higher care, which type of test is recommended on the specific disease and also helps to reduce unnecessary lab tests, etc. While not mandatory, these STWs have been recommended by the National Health Authority also," Dr. Sharma said.

Currently, while insurance companies are not using these STWs, the NHA uses its claim portal to advise the physician.

The document aims to make Universal Health Coverage a reality in the country. While the Government of India has started many initiatives, development of Standard Treatment Workflows is a catalytic step in this direction, notes the document.

A-G says Waqf Board is 'targeting' him

It removed him from sensitive case

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal on Tuesday accused the Maharashtra State Board of Waqfs in the Supreme Court of "targeting" him through a "serious, uncalled for and unwarranted attempt" to remove him as its lawyer at the last minute in a sensitive case.

K.K. Venugopal

The Board, a statutory body, superintends Waqf property running into acres and worth crores in the State. Mr. Venugopal was representing the Board in a batch of petitions on the seminal question of whether every charitable trust established by a person practising Islam was necessarily a Waqf.

Waqf is the property given in the name of God for religious and charitable purposes.

Taking serious note of the Board's "casual" treatment of the country's top law officer and constitutional authority, Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, heading a three-judge Bench, said "this is not the way you behave to the Attorney-General... This is improper".

Contempt action sought

Mr. Venugopal said the court should even contemplate initiating contempt action.

He had written to the Supreme Court narrating the surprising turn of events.

Mr. Venugopal said he had come across a letter written by a lawyer purportedly on behalf of the Board. This letter had wanted the cancellation of a two-week adjournment sought previously in the case owing to the "health of the Attorney-General". The lawyer's letter had said the case was of an "urgent nature" and could not be adjourned. The lawyer said that the Board had already made "alternative arrangement" for representation in the case.

Mr. Venugopal said the move to replace him as counsel came even as he had himself written a letter to cancel the adjournment in order to appear in the case on August 2.

'Right of audience'

He said the A-G had the "right of audience" in all courts in the country under Article 76(3) of the Constitution, adding such conduct amounted to "interference in the administration of justice".

The Board had taken "shocking steps", including the removal of lawyers who were assisting him in the case, he said, adding, "This clearly is an act of contempt of court." His communication was placed before the court on Tuesday.

The court scheduled a hearing on August 19.

3 mobile phone makers under probe for duty evasion

Nirmala Sitharaman tells Rajya Sabha that the companies had also repatriated sales proceeds to entities outside India

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday informed the Rajya Sabha that the mobile phone companies Oppo India, Xiaomi Technology India Private Ltd. and Vivo Mobiles India were under investigation for duty evasion and remitting sales proceeds to companies outside India. All three companies are from China.

Ms. Sitharaman said that government was taking cognisance of the cases of misuse of digital loan apps "originating from one particular country" to harass citizens and extort money. She said the "government is consciously taking action against Indian citizens who have helped in having these companies established and other shell companies through which they are operating".

Responding to a question from Sushil Modi about Chinese companies that have remitted money to China and China-controlled territories, the Minister said the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence had issued notice to Oppo for a ₹4,389-crore duty evasion on grounds of misdeclaration of certain goods.

"The duty evasion is about ₹2,981 crore, undervaluation of imported goods of ₹1,408 crore. Oppo has voluntarily deposited ₹450 crore against ₹4,389 crore demand," she said.

Three show-cause notices have been served on Xiaomi, which has an approximate duty liability of ₹653 crore. "For the three show-cause notices, they have deposited only ₹46 lakh," the Minister said.

Hot pursuit: From 2019 to 2022, Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) registered cases against 43 firms • PTI

"The third company is Vivo India and a demand notice has been given for ₹2,217 crore, for which they have deposited ₹60 crore."

ED cases

Besides this, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) is looking at 18 companies established by Vivo, she said. While the company has voluntarily remitted ₹62 lakh crores as deposit, it is believed that Vivo India has remitted ₹0.62 lakh crore to its parent company outside India, through these 18 companies, for the total sales of 1.25 lakh crore that happened between July 2017 and March 2021, the Minister explained in a written reply.

Five cases of customs duty evasion have been booked against Xiaomi Technology India, she added.

From 2019 to 2022, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) registered cases against 43 other such companies.

As for the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), search and seizure actions were undertaken in cases of five groups pertaining to the telecom sector, for tax evasion, the reply mentioned.

Responding to a question by Mr. Modi about how many of those 43 companies under CBIC lens were Chinese, Ms. Sitharaman said that all companies belonged to different countries.

Leave notice

The Union Home Ministry informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday that 81 Chinese nationals were given "Leave India Notice" from 2019 to 2021; while 117 Chinese persons were deported, 726 others were placed on adverse list for violating visa conditions or other illegal acts.

SC hears EPFO appeal on pension scheme

Kerala HC had set aside amendments on 'determination of pensionable salary'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

A three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court on Tuesday began the much-awaited hearing on an appeal filed by the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) against a decision of the Kerala High Court setting aside amendments on "determination of pensionable salary" under the Employees Pension Scheme (EPS) of 1995 as *ultra vires*.

Appearing before a Bench of Justices U.U. Lalit, Aniruddha Bose and Sudhanshu Dhulia, the EPFO, represented by senior advocate Aryama Sundaram and advocate Rohini Musa, argued that these amendments that were made in September 2014 were meant to grant a "minima of guaranteed retiral benefits" to the most socio-economically vulnerable beneficiaries of the Employees Provident Fund Scheme (EPFS).

In the earlier version of EPS-1995, the maximum pensionable salary cap was ₹6,500.

However, members whose salaries exceeded this cap could opt, along with their employers, to contribute up to 8.33% of their actual salaries.

The amendments introduced have raised the cap from ₹6,500 to ₹15,000.

However, the amendments said only employees who were existing EPS members as on September 1, 2014, could continue to contribute to the pension fund in accordance with their actual salaries.

They were given a window of six months to opt for the new pension regime.

However, the changed pension regime introduced through the amendments meant that someone who became an EPS member after September 1, 2014 would not get pension on a par with his or her actual salary.

"That is, even if your salary is ₹1 lakh, you will get pension only for a salary ₹15,000," advocate Nishe Rajen Shonker, the advocate for the pensioners, said.

The case concerns thousands of employees and pensioners who draw merely ₹2,000 or ₹3,000 as pension.

Marak's arrest is a clear case of vendetta: BJP

State unit seeks independent probe

THE HINDU BUREAU
GUWAHATI

Meghalaya Governor Satya Pal Malik has assured the BJP that the case against party vice-president Bernard Marak, who was arrested on charges of running a sex racket, would be probed by an independent agency.

A BJP team headed by State unit president Ernest Mawrie met the Governor on Monday seeking the removal of the Deputy Commissioner and the Superintendent of Police of West Garo Hills in order to facilitate a free and fair investigation into the case against Mr. Marak.

"The Governor has assured us that an independent inquiry into the case would be commissioned," Mr. Mawrie said on Tuesday, asserting that the police action against Mr. Marak was a "clear case of political vendetta".

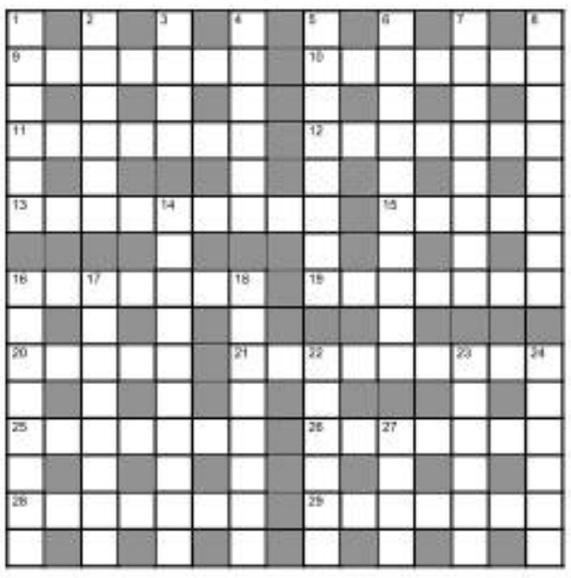
"This vendetta is a first of its kind in Meghalaya. We fear this will set the trend of vindictive politics in our State," Mr. Mawrie said.

He said they were awaiting the response from the party's central leadership on whether or not to pull out of the National People's Party-led Meghalaya Democratic Alliance government.

TH CROSSWORD + 13625

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*



Across

9 Scottish pudding and scotch, finally feeling like a witch (7)
10 Chinese complaint or a place to chill? (7)
11 Stretch is back in joint (7)
12 Run taken, one had to cause destruction (7)
13 Another thing to combine with a clip joint (9)
15 I do reject bump in the middle causes aversion (5)
16 Starts arranging cargo lengthwise in the middle of the boat (7)
19 Hurrah! Way to enter an English city (7)
20 Maintain bearing in defeat, wake them up! (5)
21 With a writer, take a hundred perhaps (9)
25 She enters in it, what does she get? (7)
26 Costing arrangement on special knowledge (7)
28 Subject record reviewed, one on either side (7)
29 Explosive gas used to erase a hard disk (7)

Down

1 Stop capturing booth in the country (6)
2 Went up taking the girls for a drink (6)
3 Sign "no empty garage for car" (4)
4 Cut up layer in the compound (6)
5 Like 27 she enters, looking angelic (8)
6 What a Londoner is to an Aussie (10)
7 Fret about a test? He knows what's good for you (8)
8 Flag of a ship loaded with cargo, essentially (8)
14 Understandably, one who retains the Ashes enters quietly (10)
16 Rum and cigar to keep the chill away (8)
17 Approximately how old are you helps in your bowel movement (8)
18 We sit in a reformed nation (8)
22 Indian movie about divinity and place of worship (6)
23 Do eat after it breaks down (4,2)
24 Harry can see cover (6)
27 Overindulgence – our guy becomes totally heartless (4)

SUDOKU

		3				7	8	
	4		9	3			5	
					6	3		
8		6		2	9		1	
	2		5	4		9		3
		4	7					
	9			8	2		7	
	7	2				5		

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13624

S	U	L	T	A	N		A	P	O	S	T	A	T	E
C		A		N			L		T		M		S	
A	S	S	E	T	S		S	U	D	A	P	E	S	T
B		V		I		S		M		R		L		E
B	R	E	A	D	T	H	S		A	S	P	I	R	E
A		G		E		R		S		A		A		M
R	E	A	P	P	O	I	N	T	I	N	G			
D		S		R		M		A		D		W		D
			L	E	O	P	A	R	D	S	B	A	N	E
I		E		S		S		T		T		I		N
S	A	N	E	S	T		C	L	A	R	I	N	E	T
G		B		E		A		E		I		S		U
B	A	L	I	N	E	S	E		S	P	A	C	E	R
A		D		T		I				E		D		E
R	O	C	K	S	T	A	R		A	S	T	I	S	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	6	5	1	3	8	4	7	9
8	9	3	7	6	4	2	1	5
4	1	7	9	2	5	8	3	6
9	8	4	3	7	2	5	6	1
5	3	2	6	4	1	9	8	7
1	7	6	8	5	9	3	2	4
6	2	9	5	1	3	7	4	8
7	4	8	2	9	6	1	5	3
3	5	1	4	8	7	6	9	2

FAITH

Parama Sara sloka

The 22nd sloka in the ninth chapter of the Bhagavad Gita, 'ananyas chintayanto maam', is considered as the Parama Sara sloka of the entire Gita. This is because it reveals the most profound and also the most practical truth of the Lord's involvement with the life of His devotees, pointed out Sri B. Sundarkumar in a discourse. The Lord traces the stages of the growth of bhakti. At the initial level, punya is sought; then only His grace is the target. Contemplating on His boundless grace and glories one realises that there is no one other than God and there is identification with the Lord.

In this sloka, the Lord declares that for those who worship Him and meditate on Him with an undistracted mind, devoting every moment to Him, He takes care of all their needs including whatever they have to achieve and gain, yoga, and also protect what they have attained in their lifetime, Kshema. Generally, the believers in God realise that some divine help is behind their attainments. Some think that it is their effort alone that has driven them through the ups and downs of life and that they bear all the burden of responsibilities in their life. This mental attitude about their own effort is similar to that of a train traveller who does not place the luggage in the train but chooses to carry it. His intention is that by doing so, he is not burdening the train which is already carrying so many people including him.

In all our lives, it is not mere individual effort, but God's backing at every step that oversees the well-being of all of us. This does not mean that we have to give up our responsibilities and hope for God's grace. Our effort is important to make us responsible. We should not worry about the result or effects of our effort.

From a Cairo clinic to the top of al-Qaeda

Zawahiri formed an Islamist militant cell in Egypt, before joining hands with Bin Laden in Afghanistan

ASSOCIATED PRESS
CAIRO

The doors of jihad opened for Ayman al-Zawahiri as a young doctor in a Cairo clinic, when a visitor arrived with a tempting offer: a chance to treat Islamic fighters battling Soviet forces in Afghanistan.

With that offer in 1980, Zawahiri embarked on a life that over three decades took him to the top of the most feared terrorist group in the world, Al-Qaeda, after the death of Osama bin Laden.

Already an experienced militant who had sought the overthrow of Egypt's "infidel" regime since the age of 15, Zawahiri took a trip to the Afghan war zone that was just a few weeks long, but it opened his eyes to new possibilities.

What he saw was "the training course preparing Muslim mujahideen youth to launch their upcoming battle with the great power that would rule the world: America," he wrote in a 2001 biography-cum-manifesto.

Zawahiri, 71, was killed over the weekend by a U.S. drone strike in Afghanistan. President Joe Biden announced the death on Monday evening.

Zawahiri was crucial in turning the jihadist movement to target the U.S. as the right-hand man to Bin Laden, the young Saudi millionaire he met in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region. Under their leadership, the al-Qaeda terror network carried out the deadliest attack ever on American soil, the September 11, 2001, suicide hijackings.

While Bin Laden came from a privileged background in a prominent Saudi family, Zawahiri had the experience of an underground revolutionary. Bin Laden provided Al-Qaeda with charisma and money, but Zawahiri brought tactics and organisational skills needed to forge militants into a network of cells in countries around the world.

Target hit: In this photograph taken on July 31, Sunday, smoke is seen rising from a house following a U.S. drone strike in the Sherpur area of Kabul that killed Zawahiri. • AFP

"Bin Laden always looked up to him," said terrorism expert Bruce Hoffman of Georgetown University.

Rebuilding leadership

When the 2001 U.S. invasion of Afghanistan demolished Al-Qaeda's safe haven and scattered, killed and captured its members, Zawahiri ensured Al-Qaeda's survival. He rebuilt its leadership in the Afghan-Pakistan border region and installed allies as lieutenants in key positions.

He also became the movement's public face, putting out a constant stream of video messages while Bin Laden largely hid.

With his thick beard, heavy-rimmed glasses and a prominent bruise on his forehead from prostration in prayer, he was notoriously prickly and pedantic. He picked ideological fights with critics within the jihadist camp, wagging his finger scoldingly in his videos.

Even some key figures in al-Qaeda's central leadership were put off, calling him overly controlling, secretive and divisive – a contrast to Bin Laden, whose soft-spoken presence many militants described in adoring, almost spiritual terms.

Yet he reshaped the organisation from a centralised planner of terror attacks into the head of a franchise chain. He led the creation of a network of autonomous branches around the region, including in Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, North Africa, Somalia and Asia.

In the decade after 9/11, A-Qaeda inspired or had a direct hand in attacks in all those areas as well as Europe, Pakistan and Turkey, including the 2004 train bombings in Madrid and the 2005 transit bombings in London. More recently, the Al-Qaeda affiliate in Yemen has proven itself capable of plotting attacks on U.S. soil with an attempted 2009 bombing of an American passenger jet and an attempted package bomb the following year.

After Bin Laden was killed in a U.S. raid on his compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan, al-Qaeda proclaimed Zawahiri its paramount leader less than two months later. The jihad against America "does not halt with the death of a commander or leader," he said.

The 2011 Arab Spring uprisings threatened a major blow to al-Qaeda, showing that jihad was not the only way to get rid of Arab autocrats. It was mainly pro-democracy liberals and leftists who led the uprising that toppled Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak, the long-time goal Zawahiri failed to achieve. But Zawahiri sought to co-opt the wave of uprisings, insisting that they would have been impossible if the 9/11 attacks had not weakened America. And he urged Islamic hard-liners to take over in the nations where leaders had fallen.

Zawahiri was born June 19, 1951, the son of an upper-middle-class family of doctors and scholars in the Cairo suburb of Maadi. From an early age, he was enflamed by the radical writings of Sayed Qutb, the Egyptian Islamist who taught that Arab regimes were "infidel" and should be replaced by Islamic rule.

Militant cell

In the 1970s, as he earned his medical degree as a surgeon, he was active in militant circles. He merged his own militant cell with others to form the group Islamic Jihad and began trying to infiltrate the military – at one point even storing weapons in his private clinic.

Then came the 1981 assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat by Islamic Jihad militants. The slaying was carried out by a different cell in the group – and Zawahiri has written that he learned of the plot only hours before the assassination. But he was arrested along with hundreds of other militants and served three years in prison.

After his release in 1984, Zawahiri returned to Afghanistan and joined the Arab militants fighting alongside the Afghans against the Soviets. He courted Bin Laden, who became a heroic figure for his financial support of the mujahideen.

Zawahiri followed Bin Laden to his new base in Sudan.He promoted the use of suicide bombings, to become al-Qaeda's hallmark. He plotted a 1995 suicide car bombing of Egypt's Embassy in Islamabad that killed 16 people – presaging the more devastating 1998 Al-Qaeda bombings of the U.S. Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania that killed more than 200, attacks Zawahiri was indicted for in the U.S. In 1996, Sudan expelled Bin Laden, who took his fighters back to Afghanistan, where they found a safe haven under the Taliban regime. Once more, Zawahiri followed.

Russia labels Ukraine's Azov regiment 'terrorist' group

Members of the group can face up to 10 years in jail

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOSCOW

Russia's Supreme Court on Tuesday designated the Azov regiment – a former volunteer battalion that was incorporated into Ukraine's army – a "terrorist" organisation, allowing for lengthy jail terms for its members.

The court ruled to "recognise the Ukrainian paramilitary unit Azov a terrorist organisation and to ban its activities on the territory of the Russian Federation," the judge said, state news agency *TASS* reported. The decision takes immediate effect.

According to Russia's criminal code, members of "terrorist" groups can face up to 10 years in jail, while their leaders and organisers can be jailed for up to 20 years.

Ukraine's Azov regiment has drawn controversy for its links to far-right figures, with Russia calling it a "neo-Nazi" group. The battalion was formally incorporated into Ukraine's National Guard in 2014 as it helped fight Kremlin-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine. Azov fighters have been fighting alongside Ukrainian troops to repel Russia's offensive in Ukraine that Moscow launched in February to "de-Nazify" the pro-Western country.

A file photo of Azov Battalion servicemen praying in Kharkiv, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. • AFP

In May, Ukrainian soldiers, including members of Azov, ended a weeks-long siege of the Azovstal steel plant in Ukraine's port city of Mariupol by agreeing to surrender. Around 2,500 people were taken captive by Moscow's forces after calling a halt to their resistance.

Nuclear arms control talks hinge on U.S. goodwill: Kremlin

Moscow says it's ready for talks even as standoff remains

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MOSCOW

The Kremlin said on Tuesday that it's ready for talks with the United States on nuclear arms control even as Moscow and Washington have remained locked in a tense stand-off over Russia's actions in Ukraine.

Commenting on U.S. President Joe Biden's statement that Washington is open for talks on a new arms control deal to replace the New START treaty after it expires in 2026, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said that such negotiations are long overdue.

Just days before the New START was due to expire in February 2021, Russia and the United States agreed to extend it for another five years.

The treaty, signed in 2010 by President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, limits each country to no more than 1,550 deployed nuclear warheads and 700 deployed missiles and bombers, and envisages sweeping on-site inspections to verify compliance.

Asked about Mr. Biden's statement in a conference call with reporters, Mr. Peskov emphasised that "Moscow has repeatedly spoken about the necessity to start such talks as soon as possible as there is little time left."

Mr. Peskov emphasized that negotiatons on a new arms control pact can only be held "on the basis of mutual respect and taking into account mutual concerns."

General, five others killed in crash: Pak.

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ISLAMABAD

Pakistani search teams found the wreckage of a helicopter that went down the previous day in the country's flood-stricken southwest, the military said on Tuesday. An Army general and five others on board were killed, it said.

The aircraft had lost contact with the air-traffic control tower in Baluchistan province on Monday evening while flying on a relief mission in a flood-hit area in the southwest.

A military statement identified the deceased officer as regional commander Lt. Gen. Sarfraz Ali. It said that, according to an initial probe, the crash happened due to bad weather.

The helicopter was part of aid efforts in the flood-affected Baluchistan. The military provided no further details.

Bomb blast, shootings rock Myanmar-China border town

No group has so far claimed responsibilty for the attacks

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
YANGON

A bomb blast and a spate of shootings in a Myanmar-China border town have killed two people and wounded at least nine, rescue workers and local people said on Tuesday.

No group has so far claimed the attacks in Muse, Myanmar's main gateway to China, which is home to several militia groups jockeying for control over lucrative casinos and the drug trade.

One woman died and five people were wounded in a bomb attack on a police traffic post on Monday, said a local NGO worker who requested anonymity.

Later that night, the police station was attacked "with small arms and heavy weapons", the worker said, killing another person and leaving four wounded.

A member of a volunteer rescue group who helped transport people to hospital confirmed the two deaths but put the wounded tolls higher, saying six people, five of them militia members, had been injured in the bombing, and another five injured in the police station attack.

A separate, drive-by shooting on Tuesday morning injured two more suspected militia members, both the NGO worker and the rescuer said. Local media also reported the attacks. A police spokesperson for the area could not be reached for comment.

Home ground

Muse is home to several militia groups controlled by Myanmar's army – which has an agreement with China not to station troops along the border. The military uses the militias as proxies in a long-running conflict with ethnic rebel groups which operate in the area, including the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA).

TNLA spokesman Major Tar Aik Kyaw told *AFP* his group was not involved in the Muse attacks.

Violence has soared across Myanmar since the military's coup last year, with the junta leading a bloody crackdown on dissent in addition to its long-running conflicts with the ethnic groups.

Muse lies on the path of a proposed $8.9 billion high-speed rail link from China's landlocked Yunnan province to Myanmar's west coast, part of Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative.

Iran's Raisi plans to address UN in New York

Move is despite the U.S. sanctions

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TEHRAN

Iran's ultraconservative President Ebrahim Raisi plans to travel to New York for the United Nations General Assembly next month despite the U.S. sanctions against him, the government's spokesperson said on Tuesday.

"The preliminary planning has been done for the President's attendance at the UN General Assembly session," Ali Bahadori-Jahromi told a weekly press briefing.

Mr. Raisi, who has been under U.S. sanctions since November 2019 for "complicity in serious human rights violations", missed last year's General Assembly because of the COVID-19 pandemic. A pre-recorded video of his address was played to the meeting instead.

Ebrahim Raisi

The General Assembly opens in New York on September 13.

Imran Khan's party funding ruled illegal

PTI denies any wrongdoing

REUTERS
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Election Commission ruled on Tuesday that former Prime Minister Imran Khan's party had received illegal funds and asked the party for an explanation for not seizing the funds, his party spokesperson said.

This ruling could result in him and the party being banned from politics.

Media reported that a three-member commission tribunal found that the party got funds from 34 foreigners or foreign companies. Acorrding to the tribunal, the party hid 13 bank acoounts and submitted fake affidavit about it.

In a case that has dragged on for years, Mr. Khan's party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was accused of receiving funds from abroad, which is illegal in Pakistan.

Mr. Khan did not comment immediately but his party spokesman denied wrongdoing.

Fawad Chaudhry, spokesperson told reporters that the ruling will be challenged explaining that the funds in question were received from overseas Pakistanis abroad, which is not illegal.

The complaint against the Khan's party, former close associate and founder Akbar S. Babar, hailed the ruling saying Mr. Khan should step down.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Division, #2nd and 4th Cross Road,
Main Road, 3rd Block HMT Layout, near BWSSB Water Tank Nagasandra (P) Benglauru - 560 073

No: BBMP/EE/DD/Tender/07/2022-23 Date: 02.08.2022

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT) (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only) (Two Cover System)

The Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Division, BBMP, Bengaluru invites bids for the following services from the Consultants Providing consultancy services for preparation PMC for Dasarahalli Division for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Est. Cost (₹. in Lakhs)	PMC Project Cost (₹. in Lakhs)	EMD (in ₹.)
	Consultancy services for preparation of detailed project management consultancy for the below mentioned works.			
1.	Work of Comprehensive development works in Abbigere, Babanna Layout, K.G Halli & Shettyhalli Surrounding area in Ward No.12 Shettyhalli, Shettyhalli Sub Division (4-works) of Dasarahalli Division under Amrutha Nagarothana Yojane Grants, (Package-CM ANY-01). GO Order No: ಪ.ಆ.ಇ 153 ಎಂಎಹೆಚ್ 2022(ಇ) ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08.04.2022) GO SL No.02, 03, 04 & 05	1500.00	15.00	38000.00
2.	Work of Comprehensive development works in MEI Layout & Bagalagunte Village, Sidedahalli Village, Vishweshwaraiah Layout, Sheshadri Layout & BTS Layout, Bhuvaneshwari Nagara Village, M.S. Ramaiah Layout, Soap factory layout & Manjunathanagara, Surrounding area in Ward No-14 Bagalagunte & Kempegowdanagara, Bhuvaneshwarinagara, Kalahastinagara & Model colony & MTS Colony & coconut garden surrounding area in Ward No.15 T. Dasarahalli Sub Division (7-works) of Dasarahalli Division under Amrutha Nagarothana Yojane Grants, (Package-CM ANY-02). GO Order No: ಪ.ಆ.ಇ 153 ಎಂಎಹೆಚ್ 2022(ಇ) ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08.04.2022) GO SL No.07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12 & 13.	1950.00	19.50	50000.00
3.	Work of Comprehensive development of roads and drains to Amaravati Badavane and Eshwari Industrial Areas, Nelagadaranahalli Hightension wire roads and main road, Cokkasandra Old village, Kempaiah badavane (Lake Beside), Mariswamappa Garden and Belmar Layout, Rukmini Nagara and Jodibhavi Road, Kalyani Area Road and Hightension Road, Gundappa Layout, Vidyanagara and Jamungunte & Gruhalakshmi layout surrounding areas in Ward No-39 Peenya Industrial area sub division (9-works) of Dasarahalli Division under Amrutha Nagarothana Yojane Grants, (Package-CM ANY-03). GO Order No: ಪ.ಆ.ಇ 153 ಎಂಎಹೆಚ್ 2022(ಇ) ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08.04.2022) GO SL No.14, 15, 16, 17, 18,19, 20,21 & 22.	1200.00	12.00	30000.00
4.	Work of Comprehensive development of bad roads and improvements to road side drains, footpath, asphalting and concreting including culvert to selected main and other concreting including culvert to selected main and other connecting roads of Duggalamma layout, MEC and MEI colony, Parvathinagara and Rajeshwarinagara and Nelagadamahalli Maramma Temple surrounding roads, Shivapura, Kalyani Motors surrounding roads, Shivapura-Sondekoppa Main Road surrounding areas in Ward No-41 Peenya sub division (3-works) of Dasarahalli Division under Amrutha Nagarothana Yojane Grants, (Package-CM ANY-04). GO Order No: ಪ.ಆ.ಇ 153 ಎಂಎಹೆಚ್ 2022 (ಇ) ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08.04.2022) GO SL No.23, 24 & 25.	1200.00	12.00	30000.00
5.	Work of Comprehensive development of roads and drains from 12th cross to 21st cross from Doddanna Industrial Area main road to Srigandhanagara main road & surroundings roads, Kempegowda layout & Kasthuri Badavane at main roads & cross roads of Rajagopalanagara, Shambhavinagara, Bhyraveshwara -nagara and Rajeshwarinagara & main roads & cross roads of Srigandhanagara, Karremsab layout, Main roads & cross roads connecting Bodubande Anjaneya Temple road, Konika garments surrounding areas in Ward No-70 of Hegganahalli sub division (3-works) of Dasarahalli Division under Amrutha Nagarothana Yojane Grants, (Package-CM ANY-05).GO Order No: ಪ.ಆ.ಇ 153 ಎಂಎಹೆಚ್ 2022 (ಇ) ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08.04.2022) GO SL No.25, 26, 27 & 28.	1200.00	12.00	30000.00
6.	Work of Comprehensive development works in Mallasandra Ward No-13, Shettyhalli sub division & Comprehensive development of roads and drains at Main roads and cross roads of Srigandhanagara, Sunkadakatte, Hoysalanagara & Gajanananagara, Sanjeevininagara 1st stage, Sanjeevininagara 3rd stage, Sanjeevininagara 2nd stage & Lakshmannagara main cross roads of Bhyraveshwara Industrial area, Nadakerappa Industrial Area, Mayura Nagara,Friends colony, Shivanandanagara & Maruthinagara & Comprehensive development works in Hegganahalli Ward No-71 (5-works) of Dasarahalli Division under Amrutha Nagarothana Yojane Grants, (Package-CM ANY-06). GO Order No: ಪ.ಆ.ಇ 153 ಎಂಎಹೆಚ್ 2022 (ಇ) ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08.04.2022) GO SL No.06, 29, 30, 31 & 32.	1950.00	19.50	50000.00
7.	Work of Comprehensive development of roads and drains at Chamundipura main road from Indian bakery to park road in Ward No-41 Peenya Industrial area Annexure-2 GO SL No.758, Comprehensive development of roads and drains from High tension road to Rajeshwarinagara friend circle and surrounding cross roads in Ward No-41 Peenya Industrial Area Annexure-2 GO SL No.758, Comprehensive development of roads and drains at cross roads of Basavehswara -nagara adjustment to Chamundipura main roads in Ward NO-41 Peenya Industrial area Annexure-2 Go Sl No. 758, Comprehensive development of roads and drains at Chamundipura cross roads from Shankarehswara school roads in Chamundipura in Ward No-41 Peenya Industrial area Annexure-2 GO Sl No.758, Comprehensive development of roads and drains at Chamundipura Northern side cross roads and 15 feet roads in Chamundipura in Ward No-41 Peenya Industrial area Annexure-2 GO Sl No.758- Call-2	1000.00	10.00	25000.00

Calendar of Events: (1) RFP Bid document can be downloaded from **06.08.2022** omnwards. (2) Pre-bid meeting at Office of the Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Division, #2nd and 4th Cross Road, 2nd Main Road, 3rd Block HMT Layout, near BWSSB Water Tank Nagasandra (P) Benglauru - 560 073 on **08.08.2022** at **11:30** am. (3) The last date for submission of completed documents is **12.08.2022** before **4:00** pm. (4) Date of Technical bid opening is **16.08.2022** after **4:30** pm. (4) Date of Financial bid opening is **17.08.2022** after **4:30** pm. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Division

MARKET WATCH

	02-08-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	58,136	0.03
US Dollar	78.53	0.67
Gold	51,877	-0.13
Brent oil	100.24	0.07

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	802.30	1.05
Apollo Hosp	4325.90	37.80
Asian Paints	3396.15	71.60
Axis Bank	730.45	-0.35
Bajaj Auto	3996.20	22.90
Bajaj Finserv	15224.15	151.05
Bajaj Finance	7341.90	80.90
Bharti Airtel	686.80	-7.65
BPCL	335.15	1.00
Britannia Ind	3788.15	-67.50
Cipla	1004.20	-0.35
Coal India	215.25	2.50
Divis Lab	3824.90	29.70
Dr Reddys Lab	4085.40	-25.05
Eicher Motors	3120.95	32.55
Grasim Ind	1589.85	21.45
HCL Tech	951.05	-1.10
HDFC	2353.30	-30.45
HDFC Bank	1430.25	-15.90
HDFC Life	538.50	-7.55
Hero MotoCorp	2771.45	-69.35
Hindalco	418.40	-5.60
Hind Unilever	2635.25	42.25
ICICI Bank	817.75	-5.65
Indusind Bank	1067.25	27.10
Infosys	1543.60	-7.45
ITC	309.95	2.45
JSW Steel	648.70	9.50
Kotak Bank	1884.60	28.85
L&T	1793.05	-21.65
M&M	1254.50	16.75
Maruti Suzuki	9173.05	169.65
Nestle India Ltd.	19458.80	203.60
NTPC	159.55	3.05
ONGC	136.70	-1.70
PowerGrid Corp	222.60	3.65
Reliance Ind	2584.65	9.80
SBI Life	1285.20	-28.10
State Bank	542.10	8.35
Shree Cement	21110.95	163.95
Sun Pharma	917.25	-1.45
Tata Consumer Products Ltd.	811.60	0.50
Tata Motors	476.25	-2.95
Tata Steel	107.00	-1.25
TCS	3291.80	-7.00
Tech Mahindra	1032.60	-17.00
Titan	2384.95	8.70
UltraTech Cement	6651.30	-6.35
UPL	739.60	-27.75
Wipro	429.60	0.60

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 02

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	78.51	78.83
Euro	80.29	80.62
British Pound	95.83	96.23
Japanese Yen (100)	59.97	60.22
Chinese Yuan	11.61	11.66
Swiss Franc	82.43	82.76
Singapore Dollar	56.89	57.13
Canadian Dollar	60.98	61.23
Malaysian Ringitt	17.61	17.70
Australian Dollar	54.36	54.58

Source: Indian Bank

VIL to harness digital tech for 2.5 lakh MSMEs

MUMBAI

Vodafone Idea Ltd. (VIL) will aid 2.5 lakh MSMEs in digital transformation, said Aravind Nevatia, Chief Enterprise Business Officer.

Trade deficit soared past $31 bn in July

Goods exports slid marginally even as imports surged 43.6%; silver imports zoomed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India's merchandise trade deficit widened sharply to a record $31.02 billion in July, as per preliminary trade estimates that peg imports during the month at $66.26 billion, or 43.6% higher than a year earlier.

Goods exports declined 0.8% year-on-year to $35.24 billion and were 12.8% lower than June's exports. Imports were flat on a month-on-month basis from June.

July's trade deficit, which is almost thrice the $10.63 billion deficit a year earlier, takes India's merchandise trade deficit for the first four months of 2022-23 past $100 billion. The trade deficit stood at $42.07 billion in April to July 2021.

This is the third month in a row that the monthly trade deficit had breached previous records – May had clocked a deficit of $24.3 billion, followed by $26.2 billion in June.

Boding ill: Goods exports fell 0.8% year-on-year to $35 bn and were 12.8% lower than in June 2022. • K.K. MUSTAFAH

The Commerce and Industry Ministry attributed the decrease in exports largely to a 7.07% fall in petroleum products, followed by a 28.3% decline in cotton yarn and handloom products, a 94.3% slump in iron ore and a 2.5% dip in engineering goods. While coal and petroleum products continued to drive up imports, like they did in June, silver imports shot up exponentially in July.

Petroleum imports rose 70.4%, while inward shipments of coal jumped 164.4% to cross $5.1 billion from just a little less than $2 billion a year earlier.

Gold imports decline

Silver imports were up 9,331%, and electronics goods also escalated 27.8%, the Ministry said. Gold imports, however, dropped sharply, both on a year-on-year and sequential bases.

Only $2.37 billion worth of the yellow metal was imported in July, 43.6% lower than in July 2021 and 12.2% below June 2022 levels.

The sharp uptick in the trade deficit was unexpected and did not augur well for the current account deficit (CAD) in the second quarter, said ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar. The CAD is likely to have crossed $30 billion in the first quarter of 2022-23, equivalent to about 80% of the full-year deficit last year.

"Lower commodity prices should temper the trade deficit going ahead, although the strength of merchandise and services exports in the face of the global slowdown fears remains crucial," Ms. Nayar said.

She expressed concern that imports were almost double the exports in July.

EEPC India chairman Mahesh Desai said the drop in engineering goods reflected weakening demand from the U.S. and Europe amid recession concerns.

Rupee jumps 53 paisa to close at 1-month high

FII flows, softening crude boosts unit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The rupee rallied 53 paise – its best single-day gain in more than 11 months – to close at a more than one-month high of 78.53 against the U.S. dollar on Tuesday.

Persistent foreign fund inflows into capital markets, softening crude oil prices and a weak U.S. dollar in the global markets boosted the local currency.

Increased risk appetite on hopes of a slow pace of tightening by the U.S. Federal Reserve has also strengthened the sentiment.

"Rupee gained strongly crossing above 78.50 on the back of dollar index weakness and crude prices falling below $95 in WTI," said Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst at LKP Securities.

"The range for rupee can be seen between 78.45 to 78.85," he added.

"The focus is now on three key events scheduled for the week – OPEC+ meeting, RBI monetary policy outcome, and the U.S. jobs report that will provide cues and dictate trend for the domestic currency," said Sugandha Sachdeva, VP - Commodity and Currency Research, Religare Broking.

Jobless rate slips to 6.8%, a 6-month low

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The country's unemployment rate fell to 6.8% in July, the lowest level in six months, amid rising agriculture activity during the monsoon, according to data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE). The rate dropped from 7.8% in June, the data showed.

Rural unemployment declined to 6.14% from 8.03% in June, CMIE said.

On the other hand, urban unemployment jumped to 8.21% in July from 7.8% in June as the number of jobs fell both in industry as well as in the services sector. Employment in urban India fell by 0.6 million to 125.1 million, according to the data.

Govt. eases coal import targets as stocks improve

Many States' stocks 50% above normal

REUTERS
NEW DELHI

India has eased coal import targets for utilities owned by State governments and private companies, according to an internal notice reviewed by Reuters.

India's Power Ministry has asked State government-run utilities and private power producers to assess the amount of coal needed to be imported for blending, according to a notice issued to government officials and private utilities.

'Still near critical levels'

Many States have stocks 50% above normal levels while others are still near critical levels, the Ministry said in the Aug. 1 notice.

States, independent power producers and the Coal Ministry could decide on coal import percentages after assessing the availability of domestic supplies, the Power Ministry said.

The Power Ministry had said in May that it would reduce domestic fuel supplies to State government-run utilities if they did not import 10% of their overall requirements to blend with local coal.

TII Q1 net rises 39% to ₹134 cr. on higher sales

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Tube Investments of India Ltd. (TII) reported first-quarter standalone net profit grew 39% to ₹134 crore on higher sales.

Revenue from operations grew by 56% to ₹1,957 crore. Cost of raw materials increased by 60% to ₹1,257 crore. Free cash flow stood at ₹139 crore, the Murugappa Group firm said.

"Despite the continuing challenges in supply-chain constraints, fuel and commodity prices, the company has witnessed steady performance during the quarter," said M.A.M. Arunachalam, executive chairman. On EVs, he said TII was making steady progress in three-wheelers and tractor products.

Wheels India Q1 net rises 5% as revenue jumps 57%

'Seeing early signs of global slowdown'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Steel wheels manufacturer Wheels India Ltd. reported a 5.2% growth in first-quarter standalone net profit to ₹10.7 crore.

Revenue from operations jumped 57% from the year-earlier period to ₹1,053 crore, while material costs surged 66% to ₹822 crore, the company said in regulatory filing.

"The demand for trucks, agricultural tractors and passenger vehicles in India was healthy, albeit with semiconductor shortages affecting some segments," said Srivats Ram, MD.

"There was a notable growth in the commercial vehicle segment from the low base of the previous year," he added. "While, there remain prospects for growth in exports, there are early signs of slowdown in the global economy."

Srivats Ram

On challenges faced, he said: "In the industrial component segment, there were significant additional logistical costs that we incurred to meet customer schedules".

Centre cuts taxes on jet fuel and diesel

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday raised the windfall tax on crude petroleum producers by 4.41%, scrapped the ₹4 per litre levy on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) exports, and reduced the cess on the export of diesel from ₹11 to ₹5 a litre.

The changes will take effect on August 3. The Centre had levied fresh taxes on the export of petrol, diesel and ATF as well as the domestic sale of crude oil on July 1, in view of runaway global prices, with a plan to review taxation levels every fortnight. Tuesday's revision takes the cess on production of each tonne of petroleum crude to ₹17,750 from ₹17,000 imposed from July 20.

SPORT

LIVE TELECAST

CWG 2022: Sony Ten 2, 3, Six (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 1.30 p.m. onwards

Chess Olympiad 2022: FIDE & Chessbase India Youtube channels, 3 p.m. onwards.

IN BRIEF

Zimbabwe wins series

HARARE

A 79-run seventh-wicket partnership between Ryan Burl and Luke Jongwe proved crucial as Zimbabwe beat Bangladesh by 10 runs on Tuesday to win a Twenty20 international series between the countries for the first time. Zimbabwe finished its 20 overs on 156 for eight and, in a tense finish restricted Bangladesh to 146 for eight for a 2-1 series triumph.

The scores: Zimbabwe 156/8 in 20 overs (Ryan Burl 54, Luke Jongwe 35, Mehidy Hasan /28, Hasan Mahmud 2/28) v Bangladesh 146/8 in 20 overs (Afif Hossain 39 n.o., Victor Nyauchi 3/29, Brad Evans 2/26). **Toss:** Zimbabwe. **MoM:** Ryan Burl. *Zimbabwe won by 10 runs to win the series 2-1.* AFP

It's about socialising, seeing some good games: Petursson

'Food and climate the biggest challenges for Iceland team'

CHESS OLYMPIAD

K. KEERTHIVASAN
MAMALLAPURAM

Margeir Petursson of Iceland is a successful businessman who has played in 11 consecutive Olympiads from 1976-96. At 62 years, he is the captain of the men's team in the 44th Chennai Olympiad here, and is hoping his team to finish in the top 25.

"Our chances are to be in the top 20-25. We have a Grandmaster team. But there are so many extremely strong teams. Let's see," Patterson told *The Hindu* here on Tuesday.

Petursson said the food and climate here have been among the biggest challenges for the members of the Iceland team in the capital city of Tamil Nadu. "For us it's a great challenge because

Margeir Petursson. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

of the temperature. Now in Iceland, it is 14 degrees. We also have problems adjusting to the food. I love Indian cuisine for its great variety. But one of our players fell ill [on the first day]. And I had to step in and play. This is what you can expect when you come from a place like Iceland," he said.

For Petursson, Olympiads are all about experiencing the city and its people. "It is about meeting old acquaintances, socialising and seeing some good games. That's my experience," he said, while adding, "I was hoping to see more of India. I have little feeling about it. Lots of people [in India]. In Iceland we are only around 380,000, just like a village in India. I always wanted to come to India," said the former National champion.

The situation in his city Lviv (Ukraine) where his business interest lies, is pretty stable but he said it is difficult to witness many war funerals. "The situation is quite stable. I just go to work everyday. It is not threatening. But people are upset. Young people go to fight and we are having many war funerals every day. It is very sad," he said.

India in mixed relay final

WORLD U-20

SPORTS BUREAU

The Indian quartet of Barath Sridhar, Priya H. Mohan, Kapil and Rupal Chaudhary to enter the 4x400m mixed relay final in the World Athletics Under-20 Championships at Cali, Colombia, on Monday.

India clocked an impressive 3:19.62s erasing its Asian record of 3:20.60 clocked while winning the bronze at last year's Worlds in Nairobi. India was second overall, after the three heats, behind USA (3:18.65s, new championships record).

Meanwhile, Jharkhand's Ashakiran Barla qualified for the women's 800m semifinal clocking 2:09.71s and making the cut as one of the fastest losers.

Laxita Sandilea was seventh in her heat (32).

Budhilal, Kishore win

Conquering the waves: Various category winners with SFI president Arun Vasu and vice-president Rammohan Paranjape. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SURFING

SPORTS REPORTER
MAMALLAPURAM

Ramesh Budhilal, Kishore Kumar, Sugar Banarse and P. Kalmali fought the waves and the other competitors to be the winners in their respective categories on the final day of the Mahabs Point Break Challenge.

Budihal once again had a stroke of luck in the finals. He got the wave in the last

tory from Appu Manikandan in the men's open category.

Banarse overcame the challenge of youngster Kamali to win the women's open category.

Local boy Kishore Kumar's consistent performance helped him win the surfing groms (16 & under) boys' section.

Kamali finished the day on a high as she won the groms (16 & under) girls' category.

Japan beats India in World Junior Finals

TENNIS

SPORTS BUREAU

Sai Janvi tried her best to give India a strong start but fifth seed Japan won 3-0 in group-C in the World Junior under-14 tennis Finals in Prostejov, Czech Republic. Janvi played for two hours and 20 minutes before losing 7-5, 3-6, 7-5 by Rira Kossaka. Thereafter, Japan dropped only seven games in winning the next two matches.

India finds itself clubbed with Egypt and Germany in the group. Germany outplayed Egypt winning 3-0, dropping eight games in all.

The results (league) Group-C: Japan bt India 3-0 (Rira Kosaka bt Sai Janvi 7-5, 3-6, 7-5; Wakana Sonobe bt Aishwarya Jadhav 6-0, 6-3; Rira & Wakana bt Aishwarya & Sohini Mohanty 6-3, 6-1).

KKR's dream gives us a hint to how they see cricket's future

BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

The cat is beginning to slip out of the bag. The chief executive of Kolkata Knight riders has been quoted in the *Daily Telegraph* as saying that IPL franchises hope to contract players for 12 months of the year to play for their different teams.

"If we were able to have X number of contracted players, and were able to use them all in different leagues, I think that would be nirvana. Hopefully, someday it will happen," Venky Mysore told the newspaper.

Meanwhile Ravi Shastri, player, coach and television pundit, in a podcast batted for two IPL tournaments in a season, the second a shorter knockout.

Ominous signs

An IPL bigwig (KKR have four teams in the world of franchise cricket) has spoken, a cheerleader of the IPL has done so too. The signs are ominous.

It does not take great imagination to see a handful of rich franchises running world cricket, deciding who plays where, and by extension, settling on where it is more profitable to lose.

Venky Mysore has said, "What we want to create is a common platform and a system and a culture that allows us to participate around the year – enhancing our brand, building our fan base, and providing opportunities to cricketers around the world. And in the process, you build a successful business around it." This is the me-generation with enormous disposable income.

Should we read this as the boast of a successful businessman or a peep into the future of the game whose oldest and most storied version might be struggling? Or a dipping of the toes in the water to check its temperature?

It is vital for the international game that the administrators recognise the signs. If they display their usual lethargy, it might be too late. Franchise cricket, where the bottom line is all that matters, could replace international cricket before they know it. For a sport that is constantly moving forwards, attempting to go back or to restore *status quo ante* is a futile exercise.

Survival plan

What plan does the International Cricket Council and its strongest member, the Board of Control for Cricket in India, have for the game for the next three, five or ten years? A plan beyond tours and tournaments, World Cups and television deals? A survival plan, if you will. What will they emphasise, what will they allow to drop away?

Chappell's take

Ian Chappell put it simply in his column when he said, "The future of the game needs thoughtful consideration. A firm decision is needed on how many playing formats are best for cricket. Once that is decided, it then needs to be confirmed how the formats should move ahead to ensure the game evolves."

There is already too much cricket being played to the detriment of players' physical and mental health. If in future the players are contracted to T20 franchises the year around, other formats will simply drop out. That might be nirvana for KKR and others, but that's a limited, even dangerous way of looking at it.

To an audience used to three formats, each with its own special features, will repetitious T20 matches be as satisfying? The franchise matches could be played in India or Australia or the Caribbean, but in a real sense they are all being played at the same venue: television. Do the shorter games have the complexity and provoke the range of emotions that the longest does?

This is not a plea for focus on Test cricket to the exclusion of everything else. What we need is balance: between formats, between franchise and international cricket, between enriching corporates and enriching the sport.

Variations are interesting, but...

Whatever the current popularity of T20, it is useful to remember that it evolved when the one-day game was being considered boring and predictable; now there is T10 that is gaining ground. Variations are interesting (The Hundred in England is another format), but they are just that – variations. The real thing is a game of two innings played over three, four or five days.

For the moment, Venky Mysore's plan might be a pipe dream. For one, there is little uniformity in recruitment across the different leagues; for another, Indian players are not allowed to participate outside the IPL. Most importantly, the BCCI will not cede control (the intention is in its name!) of its players to corporates. But compromise is the name of the game, and any number of schemes can be worked out where the BCCI gets its pound of flesh while the franchises actually decide the future of the game.

If all that sounds like an exaggeration, it probably is at this stage. But just as science fiction has heralded some of the inventions and discoveries in science, personal dreams of important stakeholders in the game can be harbingers of the direction the game takes.

Fantastic feat by Indian women

The team, led by Rupa Rani, clinches the country's first-ever lawn bowls gold

SANTADEEP DEY
BIRMINGHAM

When India's lawn bowls team touched down in the United Kingdom a week before the 2022 Commonwealth Games, it didn't have training access at the rinks in Victoria Park, Leamington Spa. The fact that the side hasn't had a coach for a while didn't help either.

"We didn't know what to do then. We searched on the internet where the nearest bowling clubs were. We called quite a few of them, but they were all too expensive," Sunil Bahadur, member of the men's team, told *Sportstar*.

But on Tuesday, the Indian women – Rupa Rani Tirkey, Pinki, Lovely Choubey, and Nayanmoni Saikia – scripted history by winning the country's first-ever gold medal in lawn bowls. South Africa began poorly, not able to register a single point for five consecutive Ends. The scoreline read 8-2 in India's favour after End 7 when Esme Kruger's smart thinking, combined with accurate attempts, got South Africa going. It even led 10-8 after 11 Ends. However, the Indians prevailed in the end.

Bowling them over: The Indian squad comprising Lovely, Pinki, Nayanmoni and Rupa Rani overcame South Africa's challenge in the gold medal contest. •PTI

The incredible win wouldn't have been possible without the help of Michael Spiro, a north Londoner. The president of the Bishopswood Bowling Club in Norrice Lea, Spiro, agreed to accommodate the Indian contingent for free.

"They didn't charge a penny from us. Nothing asked," Navneet Singh, a member of the Indian team says.

Spiro, in attendance during the women's fours finals, said, "They were surprised that we didn't charge them. For us, it is not a revenue strip. We are a 'not for profit' club. We collect fees from members to cover the running cost of the club. They came here and made us feel good. That was payment enough."

Hard to believe

Spiro found it difficult to believe most of the members of the Indian team started bowling only in 2007 at the National Games in Guwahati, while preparing for the 2010 Commonwealth Games.

"That is unbelievable what they have achieved then. They are first-class bowlers," Spiro says.

For Spiro, the attitude of the Indians appealed to him the most. "There were some other teams who wanted to be at our club, but they wanted exclusivity. They wanted nobody else to play with them, watch them or be there at the clubhouse. India didn't ask for anything like that. If they would have, maybe the attitude would have been different. We've got signed shirts of the champions now," he says.

The first thing that team manager Anju Luthra did after her wards clinched the gold medal with a final score of 17-10 was to rush over to Spiro and Co. and thank them with a small packet of dry fruits.

"Yeah, didn't I already tell you they are a bunch of lovely people?" Spiro smiled.

Indian men retain TT gold

Sathiyan, Harmeet ensure the win after Sharath's shock loss

AMOL KARHADKAR

India's paddlers retained their men's team championship title with a convincing 3-1 win over Singapore in the Commonwealth Games at Birmingham on Tuesday.

After Sharath Kamal's shock loss to southpaw Clarence Chew, Harmeet Desai put on a stunning show against Chew to seal the deal in India's favour.

The final was a repeat of the group-stage affair between the two CWG table tennis powerhouses. With India having trumped Singapore 3-0, the latter changed its combination.

The reliable duo of Harmeet and G. Sathiyan got India off to an ideal start, with a 3-0 win in the lone doubles rubber against Koen Pang and Izaac Quek. While Sathiyan was solid with his forehand topspins, Harmeet stole the show with his backhand blocks to give India the lead.

Team effort: Sathiyan, Sanil, Sharath, Harmeet and coach Raman are over the moon after the triumph. •PTI

Superb move

Singapore head coach Gao Ning pitted Clarence Chew against Sharath. And the move worked wonders as the southpaw caught Sharath off guard in the duo's first meeting in eight years. Clarence used his angles effectively to race to a win in four games.

It was India's first loss of a rubber in the team championship. But Sathiyan put India into ascendancy with a sublime show against Peng in the crucial rubber. And he showed all his skills by staying close to the table to find Peng wanting.

Harmeet then put the cherry on top with a heroic show against an in-form Clarence.

The Surat paddler started off on an aggressive note in the first game to set Clarence on the backfoot.

And the Singaporean could never recover thereafter as Harmeet raced to a 3-0 win to set off deserving celebrations.

It was India's seventh table tennis gold in Commonwealth Games ever since the sport was included in the quadrennial extravaganza in 2002. Sharath, the 40-year-old veteran, has been involved in each of five men's gold medals.

The results (final): India bt Singapore 3-1 (G. Sathiyan/Harmeet Desai bt Koen Pang/Izaac Quek 13-11, 11-7, 11-5; A. Sharath Kamal lost to Clarence Chew 11-7, 12-14, 11-3, 11-9; Sathiyan bt Pang 12-10, 7-11, 11-7, 11-4; Harmeet bt Clarence 11-8, 11-5, 11-6).

India 1 Malaysia 2

- Badminton final: Satwiksairaj/Chirag lost to Chia/Soh 18-21, 15-21; Sindhu bt Goh 22-20, 21-17; Srikanth lost to Ng 19-21, 21-6, 16-21

INDIANS' JOURNEY

Athletics: Men: Long Jump (qualifying): M. Sreeshankar (first overall), Muhammed Anees Yahiya (8th overall) - both enter final; Women: Shot put (qualifying): Manpreet Kaur (7th overall), enters final; 100m (heats): Dutee Chand (27th overall), DNQ for semifinals.
Boxing: Men (round-of-16): Light heavyweight: Ashish Kumar bt Travis Tapatuetoa (Niu); Men (round-of-16): Welterweight: Rohit Tokas bt Alfred Kotey (Gha).
Hockey: Women (Pool A): lost to England 1-3.
Lawn Bowls: Women's Fours (gold medal match): bt South Africa 17-10.
Para swimming: Men's 50m freestyle S7 final: 5. Suyash Narayan Jadhav, 7. Niranjan Mukundan.
Squash: Men (semifinals): Saurav Ghosal lost to Paul Coll (NZ) 0-3.
Swimming: Men: 50m backstroke (final): 5. Srihari Nataraj; 100m butterfly (semifinals): Sajan Prakash (16th overall), DNQ for final; 1500m freestyle (heats): Advait Page (7th overall), Kushagra Rawat (8th overall) - both enter final.
Table tennis: Men's Team (gold medal match): bt Singapore 3-1.
Weightlifting: Women: 71kg: Harjinder Kaur (bronze); Men: 96kg: Vikas Thakur (silver).

TOP INDIAN PICKS

A look at some of the Indian players/teams who will be in action on Wednesday:
Athletics: Women: Shot put (final): Manpreet Kaur (12.35 a.m., August 4).
Boxing (quarterfinals): Women: Minimumweight: Nitu Ganghas vs. Nicole Clyde (4.45 p.m.); Light flyweight: Nikhat Zareen vs. Helen Jones (11.15 p.m.); Light middleweight: Lovlina Borgohain vs. Rosie Eccles (12.45 a.m., August 4). Men: Featherweight: Mohammad Hussamuddin vs. Tryagain Morning Ndevelo (5.45 p.m.); Light heavyweight: Ashish Kumar vs. Aaron Bowen (2 a.m., August 4).
Cricket: Women (Group A): vs. Barbados (10.30 p.m.).
Hockey: Women (Pool A): vs. Canada (3.30 p.m.). Men (Pool B): vs. Canada (6.30 p.m.).
Squash: Mixed doubles (round-of-32): Joshna/Harinder vs. Yeheni/Ravindu (3.30 p.m.). Men (bronze medal match): Saurav Ghosal vs. James Willstrop (9.30 p.m.).
Weightlifting: Men: 109kg: Lovpreet Singh (2 p.m.); 109+kg: Gurdeep Singh (11 p.m.). Women: 87+kg: Purnima Pandey (6.30 p.m.).

Vikas clinches silver, Harjinder takes home the bronze

The former, with a total of 346kg in the men's 96kg category, finishes second behind the 'Don'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BIRMINGHAM

India's heavyweight lifter Vikas Thakur added yet another Commonwealth Games medal to his kitty, winning a silver in the men's 96kg here on Tuesday.

Third CWG medal

The seasoned Vikas lifted a total of 346kg (155+191) to finish second and claim his third CWG medal across three editions.

It was Vikas' second silver, having finished second in the 2014 Glasgow edition as well. In Gold Coast 2018, he had returned with a bronze.

Samoa's Don Opeloge (381: 171+210) bettered his 2018 silver by clinching gold with a record-breaking performance.

Moment to savour: Vikas won his third CWG medal while Harjinder took the bronze. •PTI

"I'm very happy to have won my third CWG medal. Today also happens to be my mom's birthday. I want to dedicate this medal to her," said Vikas. A massive 35kg separated him from the 'Don' of Samoa, but the 28-year-old is confident that he would improve and match his standards in near future.

Fiji's Taniela Tuisuva Rainibogi walked away with the bronze with a total effort of 343kg (155kg+188kg).

India's Harjinder Kaur claimed the bronze medal in the women's 71kg after a dramatic climax here on Monday. Harjinder totalled 212kg (93 in snatch, 119 in clean and jerk).

Luck was on Harjinder's side as she was assured of a podium finish after Nigeria's gold medal favourite Joy Eze was knocked out following three failed attempts in the clean and jerk category.

To start with, Harjinder failed to lift 90kg snatch in her first attempt.

Under pressure, the Indian bounced back and lifted 90kg snatch on her second attempt, a personal best. Harjinder, then, lifted 93kg snatch in her third attempt to stay in contention for a podium finish.

Sreeshankar storms into the final; Ghosal loses

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BIRMINGHAM

Murali Sreeshankar topped the men's long jump qualification round to storm into the finals along with Muhammed Anees Yahiya, who qualified as eighth best, at the Commonwealth Games athletics competition here on Tuesday.

Shot putter Manpreet Kaur also made it to the final as one of the nine athletes who could not breach the automatic qualification mark of 18m but one among the best 12 performers.

However, Dutee Chand crashed out after finishing 27th overall in the preliminary heat races. The national record holder (11.17s) clocked a disappointing 11.55 seconds to finish fourth in heat number 5.

In squash, Saurav Ghosal will fight for the bronze medal after losing to New Zealand's Paul Coll 9-11, 4-11, 1-11 in the semifinals.

Medals table

Country	G	S	B	T
Australia	36	26	29	91
England	27	29	17	73
New Zealand	13	7	5	25
Canada	9	13	19	41
South Africa	6	5	5	16
India	**5**	**4**	**3**	**12**
Scotland	3	8	14	25
Wales	2	2	8	12
Malaysia	2	2	3	7
Cyprus	2	1	4	7

Gukesh the star as all three Indian teams win

RAKESH RAO
MAMALLAPURAM

In 2000, just over six years before D. Gukesh was born, Alexie Shirov tried in vain to stop Viswanathan Anand from winning his first of the five world titles.

On Tuesday, it was Gukesh's turn to outplay the 50-year-old Latvian-Spaniard to not only to keep India 2 on the victory path but also to become India's third highest rated player on the live rating list.

In winning his fifth game on the trot on the top board of the Chess Olympiad, Gukesh punished Shirov for an error of judgement on the 28th move. In fact, the country's youngest GM produced a rare king-march across the centre of the board that left Shirov helpless.

The victory saw Gukesh overtake Vidit Gujrathi for a career-high 27th spot in world rankings with a live rating of 2714.

With six rounds to go, India 2 and Armenia lead with 10 match-points.

The results (with match-points):

Gukesh. •B. VELANKANNI RAJ

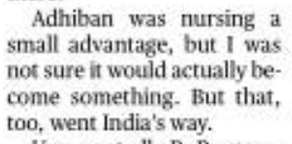
Open (fifth round): India 1 (9) bt Romania (7) 2.5-1.5 (P. Harikrishna drew with Bogdan-Daniel Deac; Vidit Gujrathi drew with Constantin Lupulescu; Arjun Erigaisi bt Mircea-Emilian Parligras; S.L. Narayanan drew with Vlad-Cristian Jianu).

Spain (8) lost to India 2 (10) 1.5-2.5 (Alexei Shirov lost to D. Gukesh; David Anton drew with Nihal Sarin; Jaime Santos Latasa bt R. Praggnanandhaa; Eduardo Iturrizaga Bonelli lost to B. Adhiban).

Chile (6) lost to India 3 (8) 1.5-2.5 (Cristobal Henriquez Villagra drew with Surya Shekhar Ganguly; Ivan Morovic Fernandez lost to S.P. Sethuraman; Pablo Salinas Herrera bt M. Karthikeyan; Hugo Lopez Silva lost to Abhimanyu Puranik).

England (8) lost to Armenia (10) 1.5-2.5; Israel (8) lost to USA (9) 1.5-2.5; France (8) drew with Poland (8) 2-2; Azerbaijan (7) lost to Cuba (9) 1.5-2.5; Iran (9) bt Turkey (7) 3-1; Uzbekistan (9) bt Slovakia (7) 4-0; Netherlands (8) bt Canada (7) 3.5-0.5; Slovenia (6) lost to Germany (8) 1-3.

Great to see the Indian men get it right



VISWANATHAN ANAND

It was a very good day for India with four wins and a draw among the six teams.

Lots of things went India's way just when it needed it. So, at some point what looked like a normal position between Shirov and Gukesh suddenly started to turn in Gukesh's favour.

His queenside was slightly open, but he got a strong pawn-mass in the centre.

CASAGRAND
building aspirations

So, I was quite hopeful there.

Adhiban was nursing a small advantage, but I was not sure it would actually become something. But that, too, went India's way.

Unexpectedly R. Praggnanandhaa lost a position that he defended extremely well and probably shouldn't have lost. Something must have happened in time-pressure. India 2 still won that match.

India 1 did not look like producing a decisive result but as it turned out, Parligras got into trouble against Arjun. Parligras seemed to be doing well earlier and again something must have gone wrong.

Sethuraman and Abhimanyu Puranik managed to win, too, for India 3 and that meant the team could afford a defeat in Murali Karthikeyan's game. It's a pity because he's trying very hard. But today was just not his day. But it was great to see each one of the Indian men's teams winning their matches.

In the women's section, India 1 clinched it, thanks to Tania Sachdev. R. Vaishali had a beautiful, even nerve-wracking encounter, where in effect, she blundered a rook. But luckily, exactly where white rooks were, she was able to get to a draw despite being a rook down and an exchange (bishop for rook) down by pushing her pawns. That was quite scary till you saw the right variations. Koneru Humpy and D. Harika again produced solid performances.

India 2, unfortunately, just never got going against Georgia, which managed a convincing win. India 3 drew with Brazil after Pratyusha Bodda lost to Juliana Sayumi Terao.

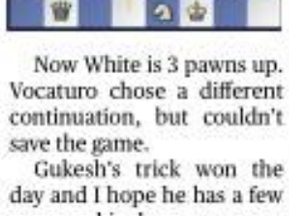
In the other matches in the Open section, the USA won against Israel, with Dominguez Perez winning the match for them after the first three boards ended in draws. England lost to Armenia while France and Poland drew.

Now, I would want the readers to solve a problem from Gukesh's game against Italy's Daniele Vocaturo from Round 4 (Monday):

Gukesh now decides the game with a nice trick. You can try to spot it yourself.

Wins a third pawn and the game.

If Vocaturo had captured the bishop... then the point was:



Capturing the bishop means the Black rook on d8 is undefended.

Now White is 3 pawns up. Vocaturo chose a different continuation, but couldn't save the game.

Gukesh's trick won the day and I hope he has a few more up his sleeve.

Tania leads the charge again for India 1

RAKESH RAO
MAMALLAPURAM

Twice in 24 hours, Tania Sachdev's decisive blow kept India 1 among the leaders.

Round 5 in the women's section proved a tough one for a number of medal-contenders, but India 1, Georgia and Romania maintained their winning run.

India 1 scored a 2.5-1.5 victory over France following Tania's clincher against Andreea Navrotescu, amid drawn games involving K. Humpy, D. Harika and R. Vaishali.

Romania, the conqueror of fourth seed Poland 2.5-1.5, joined India 1 and Georgia at 10 points to stay in the leading pack.

The results (with match-points): Women (fifth round): France (8) lost to India 1 (10) 1.5-2.5 (Marie Sebag drew with K. Humpy; Sophie Milliet drew with D. Harika; Anastasia Savina drew with R. Vaishali; Andreea Navrotescu lost to Tania Sachdev).

India 2 (8) lost to Georgia (10) 1-3 (Vantika Agrawal drew with Nana Dzagnidze; Padmini Rout drew with Nino Batsiashvili; Soumya Swaminathan lost to Lela Javakhishvili; Divya Deshmukh lost to Meri Arabidze).

India 3 (7) drew with Brazil (7) 2-2 (Eesha Karavade drew with Julia Alboredo; P.V. Nandhidhaa bt Kathie Goulart Librelato; Pratyusha Bodda lost to Juliana Sayumi Terao; Vishwa Vasnawala drew with Vanessa Ramos Gazola).

Ukraine (9) drew with Azerbaijan (9) 2-2; Poland (8) lost to Romania (10) 1.5-2.5; Kazakhstan (9) bt Cuba (7) 3-1; Germany (8) bt Mongolia (6) 3-1; USA (6) lost to Peru (8) 1.5-2.5; Indonesia (6) lost to Armenia (8) 1-3; Hungary (8) bt Sweden (6) 3.5-0.5; Colombia (7) drew with Spain (7) 2-2.

Great going: Tania had another fruitful day. •B. VELANKANNI RAJ

Ashish enters quarterfinals

Downs Tapatuetoa; Tokas outsmarts Kotey

Power-packed: Ashish took full advantage of his height to defeat Tapatuetoa of Team Niue. •GETTY IMAGES

Y.B. SARANGI

Rohit Tokas made a fine start to his Commonwealth Games campaign as he outsmarted Alfred Kotey 5-0 in a men's 67kg pre-quarterfinal contest at the boxing arena on Tuesday.

Olympian Ashish Kumar also posted a thumping 5-0 victory over a more experienced Travis Tapatuetoa of Niue in the round of 16 to advance to the men's 80kg quarterfinals late on Monday.

Tokas delivered some lusty blows to return the favour and take the first round with a 4-1 verdict. Tokas, a Kings Cup bronze medallist, used his feet well and landed hard right punches on Kotey to win the second round convincingly.

Even as Kotey stepped up aggression in the third round, Tokas boxed intelligently and surged ahead to emerge as the winner. Tokas will meet Niue's Xavier Mata'afa-Ikinofo in the quarterfinals on Thursday.

The 28-year-old Ashish, an Asian championships bronze medallist and a Thailand Open silver medallist, overpowered Tapatuetoa.

Ashish, the taller of the two, rained powerful combinations on the cautious Tapatuetoa, who competed in the 2010 Delhi Commonwealth Games.

The Indian showed his jabs and uppercuts as he asserted complete supremacy to make all the five judges score 10-8 in his favour in the first two rounds.

Ashish set up a quarterfinal clash with five-time British National champion and Youth Commonwealth Games gold medallist Aaron Bowen.

Ashish exhibited his jabs and uppercuts more frequently.

The Indian conserved some energy in the closing minute in anticipation of a tougher fight against Bowen in the last eight.

Three out of five judges scored 10-8, while two gave 10-9 in favour of Ashish in the final period.

Suryakumar's blitz trumps Mayers'

India wins the third T20I, goes 2-1 up

INDIA IN WI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ST. KITTS

Suryakumar Yadav (76, 44b, 8x4, 4x6) aced the chase to perfection as India defeated West Indies by seven wickets in the third T20I here on Tuesday to take a 2-1 lead in the five-match series.

Needing 165 for victory, the visitors romped home with one over to spare.

Suryakumar, who walked in to open the innings along with skipper Rohit Sharma, was supported by Shreyas Iyer (24, 27b, 2x4) and Rishabh Pant (33 n.o., 26b, 3x4, 1x6).

Earlier, the Indian bowling unit was disciplined for the better part before Avesh Khan and Arshdeep Singh's relative inexperience saw West Indies put up a competitive 164 for five.

Left-handed Kyle Mayers (73, 50b, 8x4, 4x6) did punish the Indian attack with eight fours and four sixes in his kitty as he added 50 in 7.2 overs with skipper Nicholas Pooran (22, 23b, 3x4) after an opening stand with Brandon King that yielded 57.

Suryakumar. •AFP

While Avesh Khan's poor show (3-0-47-0) stuck like a sore thumb, the other bowlers put up a more than decent show without being exceptional.

SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES

Brandon King b Hardik 20 (20b, 3x4), Kyle Mayers c Pant b Bhuvneshwar 73 (50b, 8x4, 4x6), Nicholas Pooran c Pant b Bhuvneshwar 22 (23b, 2x4, 1x6), Rovman Powell c Hooda b Arshdeep 23 (14b, 2x4, 1x6), Shimron Hetmyer run out 20 (12b, 2x6), Devon Thomas (not out) 0 (0b), Jason Holder (not out) 1 (1b); Extras (lb-3, w-2) 5; TOTAL (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 164.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-57 (King, 7.2), 2-107 (Pooran, 14.4), 3-128 (Mayers, 16.2), 4-162 (Powell, 19.3), 5-163 (Hetmyer, 19.5).

INDIA BOWLING

Hooda 1-0-1-0, Bhuvneshwar 4-0-35-2, Avesh 3-0-47-0, Hardik 4-0-19-1, Arshdeep 4-0-33-1, Ashwin 4-0-26-0.

INDIA

Rohit Sharma retd. hurt 11 *(5b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Suryakumar Yadav c Joseph b Drakes 76 *(44b, 8x4, 4x6)*, Shreyas Iyer st. Thomas b Hosein 24 *(27b, 2x4)*, Rishabh Pant (not out) 33 *(26b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Hardik Pandya c Thomas b Holder 4 *(6b)*, Deepak Hooda (not out) 10 *(7b, 1x4)*; Extras (b-1, nb-1, w-5): 7; Total (for three wkts. in 19 overs): 165.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-105 (Shreyas, 11.3), 2-135 (Suryakumar, 14.3), 3-149 (Hardik, 17.2).

WEST INDIES BOWLING

McCoy 4-0-34-0, Joseph 4-0-39-0, Drakes 4-0-33-1, Holder 3-0-30-1, Hosein 4-0-28-1.

Toss: India; **MoM:** Suryakumar.

India won by seven wickets with one over to spare, leads the five-match series 2-1.

West Indies clinches second T20I

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ST. KITTS

A record-breaking six-wicket haul by Obed McCoy paved the way for a nervy series-levelling five-wicket win for the West Indies over India in the second T20I of the five-match series at Warner Park in St Kitts on Monday.

Comfortable winner of the opening encounter in Trinidad three days earlier, India was dismissed for 138 off 19.4 overs with left-arm seamer McCoy returning the outstanding figures of six for 17, the best-ever by a West Indian in T20Is.

Opening batter Brandon King's 68 set the home side on their way to what looked a comfortable victory before they stumbled towards the end and needed an unbeaten 31 from wicketkeeper-batter Devon Thomas to reach the target at 141 for five off 19.2 overs and set the stage for the third match at the same venue on Tuesday.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA: 138 in 19.4 overs.

WEST INDIES

Brandon King b Avesh 68 *(52b, 8x4, 2x6)*, Kyle Mayers c Ashwin b Hardik 8 *(14b, 1x4)*, Nicholas Pooran c Suryakumar b Ashwin 14 *(11b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Shimron Hetmyer c & b Jadeja 6 *(10b, 1x4)*, Devon Thomas (not out) 31 *(19b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Rovman Powell b Arshdeep 5 *(8b)*, Odean Smith (not out) 4 *(4b)*; Extras (lb-2, nb-2, w-1): 5; Total (for five wkts. in 19.2 overs): 141

FALL OF WICKETS

1-46 (Mayers, 6.1), 2-71 (Pooran, 9.4), 3-83 (Hetmyer, 12.3), 4-107 (King, 15.3), 5-124 (Powell, 18.2).

INDIA BOWLING

Bhuvneshwar 2-0-12-0, Arshdeep 4-0-26-1, Jadeja 3-0-16-1, Ashwin 4-0-32-1, Hardik 4-0-22-1, Avesh 2.2-0-31-1.

Toss: WI; **MoM:** McCoy.

WI won by five wickets with four balls to spare.

Masters of the 64 Squares

Coffee Table book on Indian chess

Viswanathan Anand and Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur with the book. •R. RAVINDRAN & B. VELANKANNI RAJ

SPORTS BUREAU

In recent years, India has emerged as one of the leading nations in international chess with a sudden spurt in the number of Grandmasters.

The country also shared the gold medal with Russia in the Online Chess Olympiad in 2021.

The 44th Olympiad in Mamallapuram, near Chennai, has witnessed a record participation (186).

To celebrate the hosting of the global event, *Sportstar* and *The Hindu* have dug deep into their archives to bring this labour of love – *Masters of the 64 Squares* – that chronicles the memorable journey of the Indian kings and queens who have gone places in the chess world.

From India's first known player Sultan Khan to Emperor Viswanathan Anand, the country's first Grandmaster, to Rahul Shrivasthav, the 74th and most recent member of the club, we relive the milestone moments.

You can book your copy online by scanning the QR code below and receive a 20% discount.

Record-breaking McKeon swims to fourth gold

Cyclist Kenny pedals to an emotion-filled triumph; English gymnasts continue to dominate

ROUND-UP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BIRMINGHAM

Australian swim sensation Emma McKeon won a record-extending 12th gold medal at the Commonwealth Games on Monday as cycling star Laura Kenny finished her campaign with an emotional gold.

It was another night of domination in the Birmingham pool for Australia, who now have 16 golds at the Sandwell Aquatics Centre out of a possible 33.

McKeon, who powered home in the 50m butterfly, has now won four golds in Birmingham and has collected more overall gold medals than any other athlete in Commonwealth Games history.

The 28-year-old, who won seven medals at last year's Tokyo Olympics – including four golds – touched in 25.90sec.

Rising Canadian star Summer McIntosh, who is just 15, won her second gold of the Games, adding the women's 200m individual medley title to her 400m IM crown.

Rising to the challenge: Fraser overcame a foot injury to take honours in the pommel horse. •GETTY IMAGES

Thanks, folks! Kenny acknowledges the cheers after winning the 10km Scratch Race in London. •GETTY IMAGES

48-hour 'hell'

Australia's Kyle Chalmers won the men's 100m freestyle final in 47.51sec after a 48-hour period that he described as "hell" as a result of intense speculation in the media over his relationships with team members.

Reports suggested a rift with McKeon and Cody Simpson, who is reportedly dating McKeon, Chalmers's ex-girlfriend.

Australian Olympic champion Kaylee McKeown destroyed the field to win the women's 200m backstroke and Australia rounded off the night in style by winning the men's 4x200m freestyle relay.

England's Kenny and Australian Matthew Glaetzer won gold medals in an uplifting final session of track cycling, which was being held in London.

New Zealand's Ellesse Andrews, in the women's keirin, and compatriot Aaron Gate, in the men's 40km points race, both won their third gold medals of the games.

Kenny, who has suffered a miscarriage and an ectopic pregnancy since competing at last year's Tokyo Olympics, admitted she had thought it was "going to be my last race".

However, she refocused and won the women's 10-kilometre scratch on the same track where 10 years ago, aged 20, she won double Olympic gold. Kenny admitted her confidence had been shaken by a horrific crash on Sunday that had resulted in her teammate, Matt Walls, being taken to hospital.

Luck changes for Glaetzer

Glaetzer battled back from thyroid cancer to compete at the Olympics.

But after some wretched luck in Birmingham – coming to grief in the keirin and then stripped of his bronze medal in the sprint on Sunday – he won the men's 1,000m time trial to add to his gold in the team sprint.

England extended its domination of the gymnastics competition.

Local boy Joe Fraser battled through the pain of a fractured foot to take gold in the pommel horse while Jake Jarman won the men's floor to go with his men's all-around title.

England's Courtney Tulloch retained his rings title as Georgia Mae-Fenton took gold in the women's uneven bars. Australia's Georgia Goodwin won the women's vault.

England has won seven of the nine golds on offer so far in the gymnastics competition.

Double delight for Iniyan

CHESS

SPORTS REPORTER
CHENNAI

GM P. Iniyan won the Andorra International Open and Grand Prix blitz chess tournament at the Andorra La Vella on Sunday.

The classical tournament was a nine-round Swiss system with classical time control.

Iniyan scored seven points out of the nine rounds. In the nine games, he had won five games including the ones against a Norwegian IM, Spanish IM, and Chilean IM, and made four draws with Norwegian IM, Spanish IM, and two Indian IMs.

In the end, Iniyan was tied for first with Spanish GM Lopez Martinez, but he triumphed on tie-breaker.

In the blitz event, he scored eight out of nine to finish first. He had seven wins including against Israeli GM, Andorran GM, American IM, and Slovakian IM, and drew two games, remaining undefeated the whole tournament.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Cambridge and Vultures share honours

Cambridge CC and Vultures CC were declared joint-winners of the KSCA Twenty20 tournament after the final being held at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium was abandoned because of rain.

The scores: Cambridge CC 127 in 19.5 overs (L.R. Chethan 58, M.B. Darshan 3/14) vs. Vultures CC 46/2 in 4.1 overs (Karun Nair 27) [Match was abandoned because of rain].

State-ranking TT tournament

Bellary District Table Tennis Association will conduct a State-ranking table tennis tournament from August 12 to 15 at Tungabhandra Project Recreation Club, TB Dam.

Entries can be submitted online (http://karnatakatt.com/hospete) and they close at 6 p.m. on August 5. For details, contact: Manjunath (+91 9880977827).

Easy for Vedant and Shaivi

Top seeds Vedant Gundu and Shaivi Dalal made easy progress into the second round of the KSLTA Transform Super Series under-14 tennis tournament, here on Tuesday.

While Vedant defeated Sharan Somasi 6-1, 6-4, Shaivi thrashed Lavanya Tiwari 6-1, 6-0.

India to begin campaign against Pakistan

ASIA CUP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI

India will start its campaign against Pakistan in the Asia Cup T20 here on August 28, Asian Cricket Council (ACC) president Jay Shah announced on Tuesday.

The squad that India will choose for the Asia Cup will effectively be the core group that will compete in the T20 World Cup in Australia unless there are injury related pull-outs.

BCCI secretary Shah, who heads the continental body, released the fixture of the tournament, which has been shifted out of Sri Lanka due to prevailing political and economic crisis in the island nation.

"The 15th edition of the Asia Cup will serve as ideal preparation ahead of the ICC T20 World Cup," Shah tweeted while releasing the fixture.

Group-A will comprise of India, Pakistan and a Qualifier (yet to be decided) while Group-B has Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

The schedule: **Group-A**: India, Pakistan, Qualifier (TBD); **Group-B**: Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan.

The fixtures: Aug. 27: Sri Lanka vs Afghanistan (Dubai); **Aug. 28:** India vs Pakistan (Dubai); **Aug. 30:** Bangladesh vs Afghanistan (Sharjah); **Aug. 31:** India vs Qualifier (Dubai); **Sept. 1:** Sri Lanka vs Bangladesh (Dubai); **Sept. 2 :** Pakistan vs Qualifier (Sharjah).

Super Fours: Sept. 3: B1 vs B2 (Sharjah); **Sept. 4:** A1 vs A2 (Dubai); **Sept. 6 :** A1 vs B1 (Dubai); **Sept. 7:** A2 vs B2 (Dubai); **Sept. 8:** A1 vs B2 (Dubai); **Sept. 9:** B1 vs A2 (Dubai); **Sept. 11:** Final (Dubai).

Dhanalakshmi suspended for three years

STAN RAYAN
KOCHI

The Athletics Integrity Unit has banned Olympian S. Dhanalakshmi, who failed an out-of-competition dope test in Turkey in May, for three years.

The 24-year-old Tamil Nadu athlete tested positive for metandienone, an anabolic androgenic steroid and a non-specified substance prohibited at all times under the WADA 2022 list, at Antalya on May 1 this year. The period of ineligibility is normally four years for such cases. Since Dhanalakshmi admitted the violation and accepted the sanction, the AIU gave her a one-year reduction which now makes it a three-year ban from July 11, the date of provisional suspension. TN triple jumper Donald Makimairaj failed a dope test at the Junior Nationals at Sangrur on August 2, 2021 and has been banned for four years.

Vijender faces Sulley on August 17

BOXING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Trailblazer Indian boxer Vijender Singh is set to return to action against Eliasu Sulley of Ghana at *'The Jungle Rumble'*, in his sixth professional bout in the country to be held in Raipur on August 17. It will be the first-ever professional bout to held in Raipur. The fight, organised by *Purple Goat Sportstainment LLP*, will take place at Balbir Singh Juneja Stadium.

Viacom 18 has joined hands with the event to telecast the bout live on *Sports 18 Khel* and *VOOT*.

"I'm really looking forward to this fight, I have been training extensively for this and it will be the perfect opportunity and place to get back into winning ways.

"There was a tiny blip in the last fight but I am gearing up with my team to defeat Eliasu Sulley, and I cannot wait to get in the ring," Vijender said.

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